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JMM founder Shibu Soren, who fought for J'khand's creation, no more

SHIBU SOREN
11 JAN, 1944 – 4 AUG, 2025

RANCHI/NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Shibu Soren, veteran tribal leader, founder of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), and a key figure in the creation of Jharkhand, passed away on Monday in Delhi at the age of 81.

Soren had been undergoing treatment for kidney-related issues at a private hospital since June 19 under the care of nephrologist Dr A K Bhalla. He was declared dead at 8.56am. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the hospital and paid tributes to his mortal remains.

His body will be flown to Ranchi on Monday evening and taken to his native village in Ramgarh district on Tuesday, where the last rites will be performed. Jharkhand has declared three days of state mourning and closed all government offices on August 4 and 5. The ongoing state Assembly session has been adjourned sine die, and all official programmes cancelled.

A towering political figure in eastern India, Soren was a three-time Chief Minister of Jharkhand and served multiple terms in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He also held the Union Coal Ministry portfolio thrice between 2004 and 2006.

People gather as the mortal remains of Shibu Soren arrive at Birsa Munda Airport in Ranchi on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Soren represented Dumka in the Lok Sabha across several terms from 1980 to 2019. He had led the JMM for 38 years and was considered its patriarch. At the time of his passing, he was a Rajya Sabha MP and part of the INDIA alliance.

However, his political legacy was marred by controversy, including a 2006 conviction for his role in the 1994 murder of his private secretary, Shashi Nath Jha, and other criminal allegations in the past. Condolences poured in from across the nation for the man known as 'Guruji' to his supporters. *—PTI*

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'Pariksha Pe Charcha' wins Guinness record

New Delhi, 4 Aug
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) initiative has entered the Guinness World Record for the "most people registered on a citizen engagement platform in one month", with 3.53 crore valid registrations during its eighth edition, the Education Ministry announced. The 2025 edition also recorded over 21 crore viewership across platforms. Held annually since 2018, PPC connects Modi with students, teachers, and parents. *—PTI*

Passengers spot cockroaches on Air India flight

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Air India passengers on a San Francisco–Mumbai flight were startled to find small cockroaches on board, prompting the airline to launch a comprehensive investigation into the incident. The flight, AI180, operated by a Boeing 777, had a scheduled fuel stop in Kolkata early Monday morning. During this stop, the aircraft underwent deep cleaning by the airline's ground crew to address the pest issue. *—PTI*

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Kalyan resigns as LS whip amid rift with Moitra

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Amid internal rumblings in the party, senior TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee on Monday resigned as the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha, alleging that he was being blamed unfairly for lack of coordination among MPs even as some barely attend Parliament. TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Monday named Abhishek Banerjee the new Parliamentary leader in the Lok Sabha, replacing veteran leader Sudip Bandopadhyay. *—PTI*

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Philippines President kicks off India visit

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Philippines President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr kicked off his five-day visit to India starting Monday, during which he will hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and take part in several engagements to bolster ties between the two countries. This is his first visit to the country since assuming the office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the MEA earlier said. *—PTI*

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Trump to raise tariffs on India again over Russia oil

Trump says India does not care about deaths in Ukraine

NEW YORK/ WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

US President Donald Trump on Monday threatened to "substantially" raise tariffs on Indian goods, accusing New Delhi of profiting from massive purchases of Russian oil amid the Ukraine conflict. This comes days after the Trump administration imposed a sweeping 25 per cent duty on all Indian imports under an executive order titled 'Further Modifying The Reciprocal Tariff Rates'.

Trump alleged India was re-exporting Russian oil for profit while ignoring the Ukraine crisis. "They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine," he posted on social media.

US President Donald Trump alleged India was re-exporting Russian oil for profit while ignoring the Ukraine crisis **PHOTO: PTI**

India responded by stating it would take all steps to safeguard its national interest and is examining the tariff implications. India has emerged as Russia's second-largest oil buyer after China, with Russian crude now forming 35-40 per cent of its import basket — up from just 0.2 per cent before the war. The tariff are seen as pressure tactics to push India into trade concessions on US agriculture, dairy, and GM food products.

Visa applicants must post for $15,000 bond

In a separate development, the US State Department is proposing a pilot programme requiring business and tourist visa applicants from countries with high overstay rates to post bonds of $5,000 (Rs 4.3 lakh) to $15,000 (Rs 13 lakh).

A preview of the notice said the pilot programme would take effect within 15 days of its formal publication and is necessary to ensure that the US government is not financially liable if a visitor does not comply with the terms of his or her visa. *—PTI*

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MP's gold chain snatched in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Congress MP R Sudha was injured after her gold chain was snatched during a morning walk in Delhi's high-security Chanakyapuri area on Monday. The incident occurred around 6.15am near the Embassy of Poland, when an unidentified man on a scooter snatched her chain and fled.

Sudha, the MP from Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu, was accompanied by Rajya Sabha MP Rajathi. She sustained minor injuries to her neck and her churidhar was torn during the struggle. Despite their cries for help, no bystanders intervened.

A Delhi Police Emergency Response Vehicle noticed the commotion. Following a PCR call from Tamil Nadu Bhavan, where Sudha is currently staying during the Monsoon session of Parliament.

In her letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Sudha expressed trauma and concern over security in the capital, stating, "If a woman cannot walk safely in this high-priority zone... where else can we feel safe?"

Sudha, the MP from Mayiladuthurai, sustained minor injuries to her neck and her churidhar was torn during the struggle **PHOTO: PTI**

The police have registered a case and launched an investigation, with multiple teams working to identify the suspect. CCTV footage and eyewitness accounts are being reviewed.

Security has since been increased around Tamil Nadu Bhavan and the diplomatic enclave, home to several embassies and government residence *—PTI*

No parties objected to deletion from Bihar draft rolls: EC

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Election Commission on Monday said that since the Bihar draft voter list was published on 1 August, no political party has approached it for inclusion or deletion of names of individuals from the document.

The draft roll will be available till 1 September for claims and objections under which parties and individuals can seek inclusion of eligible citizens left out and exclusion of those they believe are ineligible.

The EC said between 3pm on 1 August and 3pm on 4 August, no booth-level agent appointed by parties has approached poll authorities in the claims and objections procedure.

An EC bulletin said 1,927 individuals have approached it so far for inclusion or removal of names. The draft list is part of the ongoing SIR of the voter list of Bihar by the EC, which is facing protests from the opposition parties. *—PTI*

After tigers, 19 peacocks found dead in K'taka

TUMAKURU, 4 AUG

Ninteen peacocks were found dead under mysterious circumstances in Karnataka's Tumakuru district on Monday, prompting Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre to order a probe led by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF).

The dead birds, discovered by farmers in a field near Medigeshi in Hanumanthapura village of Madhugiri taluk, included five males and 14 females. The cause of death remains unknown.

PHOTO: SALAR

Khandre recalled recent incidents of wildlife deaths in Karnataka, including the poisoning of a tiger and four cubs in the Male Mahadeshwara Hills, and the killing of monkeys near Bandipur. Citing media speculation that pesticide poisoning could be responsible, the minister has directed the DCF-led team to investigate whether pesticides were deliberately used or accidentally consumed by the birds through treated crops.

The minister has demanded a report within five days. He also said that any deaths of Schedule I or II species be reported immediately. *—Salar News*

How do you know China grabbed 2K km land: SC raps RaGa

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Supreme Court on Monday sharply criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his alleged derogatory remarks against the Indian Army during the 2022 Bharat Jodo Yatra, stating, "If you are a true Indian, you wouldn't say such a thing." However, the court stayed the criminal proceedings against him in a Lucknow court.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh government and complainant Udai Shanker Srivastava, seeking their responses within three weeks.

"Why don't you say such things in Parliament? Why make them on social media?" the bench asked. "How do you know 2,000 sq km of Indian territory is occupied by China? Were you there? Do you have credible material?"

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, argued that as Leader of the Opposition, Gandhi had the right to raise concerns, especially if they were published in the media. Responding to the court's "true Indian" remark, Singhvi said, "A true Indian might also express concern when 20 soldiers are killed."

Justice Datta remarked Gandhi should have raised such issues in appropriate forums rather than in public rallies. The complaint stems from Gandhi's December 2022 statement alleging Chinese occupation of Indian land and the beating of Indian soldiers in Arunachal Pradesh. The lower court had summoned Gandhi without verifying the allegations, which Singhvi argued was improper, especially as Gandhi is not a resident of Lucknow. Allahabad High Court had earlier dismissed Gandhi's plea against summons. *—PTI*

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SC TO HEAR TN OVER USE OF CM's NAME, PICTURE IN SCHEMES

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on 6 August, the appeal of the DMK government against Madras High Court order asking it not to use names and photographs of present and former chief ministers in welfare schemes.

A bench comprising Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran took note of the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the State government, that the HC by its interim order restrained use of names and portraits of the CM and former CMs in welfare schemes.

Rohtagi said it has been held by the top court that the name and pictures of the CM can be used in welfare schemes. The bench agreed to hear the plea on Wednesday.

The Madras HC, on 31 July, restrained the TN government from naming any new or rebranded public welfare schemes after living individuals. *—PTI*

A STAR IS BORN

Siraj stumps England as India wins Oval thriller to level series

Mohammed Siraj poses after being named the 'player of the match' following India's win

LONDON, 4 AUG

The indomitable Mohammed Siraj powered India to a stunning six-run victory over England in the final Test at The Oval on Monday, levelling the fiercely contested five-match series 2-2.

Siraj's fiery spell triggered a dramatic English collapse from 339/6 to 367 all out in just 46 balls. With four wickets in hand and 35 runs to get at the start of play, England had the upper hand. But Siraj's warrior spirit turned the tide, finishing with a match haul of nine wickets and earning the Player of the Match award.

His figures: 30.1 overs, 6 maidens – a reflection of relentless effort throughout the series, in which he emerged as the leading wicket-taker with 23 scalps.

Prasidh Krishna provided crucial support from the other end, ensuring India held on in a nail-biting finish, despite the absence of Jasprit Bumrah.

"I woke up and set a 'Believe' wallpaper on my phone. I told myself I would do it for the country," said Siraj . Controversy surrounded day four's early stoppage due to rain, drawing criticism from Stuart Broad and Michael Vaughan. But the Test going to a tense final day only amplified its drama. India captain Shubman Gill, 25, silenced critics with this result. Appointed amid doubts and missing senior stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, Gill led a young side to an inspiring 2-2 draw. England's Harry Brook was named Player of the Series. *—PTI*

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PHOTO: X

Man pushed into Krishna river for marrying minor

RAICHUR, 4 AUG

Police have made a surprising discovery in the recent case where a woman was accused of attempting to murder her husband by pushing him into the Krishna river on 11 July. Turns out the victim is the perpetrator. Police arrested Tatappa, the husband, for forcibly marrying a 16-year-old. A POCSO case has been registered against the accused and nine members, both from the accused and the girl's family. In her testimony, the minor said, "Even though they knew I was a minor, the other accused arranged my marriage with Tatappa. On the 11th day after the marriage, they even forced the first night (sexual consummation)."
—Salar News

AI Express flight returns to City after snag

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

An Air India Express flight heading to Kolkata was forced to return to City on Sunday evening due to a technical issue. The flight IX2718, operated by an Airbus A320, had been airborne for over two hours before turning back, as per the flight tracking information on Flightradar24.com. "One of our flights from the City returned to the airport following a technical issue," an Air India Express spokesperson stated on Monday. "The aircraft circled to reduce fuel and weight before executing a safe, precautionary landing." An alternate aircraft was subsequently arranged to transport the passengers to Kolkata. The airline has confirmed that it is investigating the technical snag encountered by the aircraft.
—PTI

PHOTO: X

Neha Hiremath murder accused denied bail

HUBBALLI, 4 AUG

NA court on Monday rejected the bail plea of Fayaz, who killed 23-year-old college student Neha Hiremath on the college campus on 18 April, 2024. Neha, a first-year MCA student, was the daughter of Congress Corporator Niranjan Hiremath. Fayaz had stabbed her to death on the BVB college campus after she allegedly rejected his love proposal. Fayaz, 23, is an MCA dropout and her batch mate during UG. Responding to the verdict, Neha's father said, "The Judge has denied bail to the man who took my daughter's life. This is our first victory" and vowed to continue fighting for justice. The hearing has been adjourned to 6 August.
—PTI

Minor girl's ex murders man over affair

KOPPAL, 4 AUG

A 27-year-old man was hacked to death in front of a mosque in Koppal on Sunday night, allegedly for being in a relationship with a minor. The incident took place on Sunday, when Sadik Hussain Kolkar murdered Gavishiddappa Tanakanakal with a machete later surrendering himself at the Koppal Police Station. Kolkar had learned about the victim's relationship with his ex-girlfriend, prompting him to commit the crime. Tanakanakal was reportedly a relative of Yamanurappa Naik, a member of the Ojanahalli Gram Panchayat in Koppal taluk. Tanakanakal was allegedly ambushed by Kolkar on the Bahaddur Bandi Road, where Kolkar attacked him on the neck with a machete. A case has been registered under the relevant Sections of the BNS. *—Salar News*

Justice Das Commission recommends SC reservation

Submits report to govt with 6 suggestions for Cabinet

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

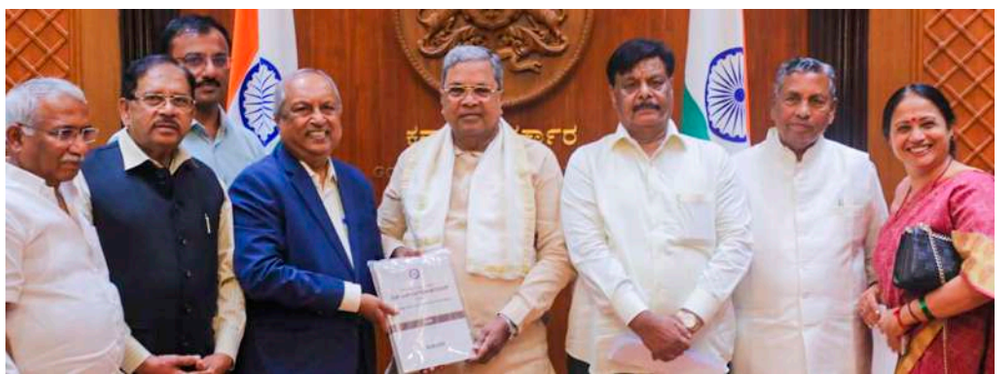
The Justice Das Commission submitted its 1,766-page survey report on internal reservation to State CM Siddaramaiah in the presence of several ministers on Monday. Justice Nagamohan Das, who leads the one-person committee, told press that the commission's report recommends that internal reservation be provided to the Scheduled Caste (SC).

"For a long time, it was my desire that the Scheduled Caste deserve internal reservation. I also recommended to the government that internal reservation must be provided," Justice Das said.

On X, Siddaramaiah said the report contained six recommendations.

"I believe (the report) is a significant milestone in the implementation of social justice," he said.

State Home Minister G Parameshwara said the report would be placed before the Cabinet to decide on how to implement its recommendations.



State Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accepted the report by a committee headed by retired Justice HN Nagamohan Das
PHOTO: PTI

"This report will be placed before the Cabinet. After that, the decision taken by the Cabinet will be implemented," Parameshwara said.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said that Congress promised the survey in its manifesto.

"We had promised this in our manifesto and delivered on it. We conducted a scientific survey, ensuring that most people were accounted for, except for some individuals in urban areas who did not participate. The CM has suggested that the report be placed before the Cabinet at its next meeting. We will see the recommendations and analysis, and then take a call," he added.

The decision to set up the commission came after the the Supreme Court gave States the power to decide which castes and tribes should be given internal reservations in government jobs. *—Agencies*

HC asks transport unions to postpone strike, they refuse

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

Employees' union of the State-owned transport corporations have decided to go an indefinite strike from 5 August as talks with the Karnataka government failed on Monday, even as the Karnataka High Court issued an interim stay against their agitation.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who held talks with the union representatives, appealed to them to withdraw their protest. The unions' demands include wage revision.

While giving the interim stay, the court pointed out that talks between the union representatives and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah were on.

"If the entire public transport operation is stalled, the public are likely to be put to hardship. Therefore, it would be appropriate to grant interim stay till tomorrow (5 Aug) awaiting the outcome of negotiations with the government referred to above. Hence (the) respondent is hereby directed to put on hold the proposed strike till next hearing date," the court said.

However, an AITUC leader said the strike will proceed as planned, but the unions will urge the HC to hear them tomorrow `as well.

The employees' unions are firm that their 38 months of arrears be paid and a salary hike from 1 January, 2024 implemented.

"The CM said that he would clear two years of arrears and asked us to give up the claim on the remaining two years. We have not agreed for it. We need 38 months' arrears," KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation President HV Anantha Subbarao said.

There was no commitment on salary hike. "We are not happy. So our strike will start from tomorrow morning." *—PTI*

BJP: Cong wants to rename KRS after Tipu

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

Opposition Leader R Ashoka claimed the ruling Congress government was trying to rename the KRS dam as Tipu Sultan Sagar while BJP State President BY Vijayendra accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and State Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa of "distorting history and disrespecting the legacy" of the Mysore royal family.

At an event at Srirangapatna in Mandya district on Sunday, Mahadevappa said, "Tipu Sultan was the first who laid the foundation stone (of the dam) but nobody has the courage to say this. BR Ambedkar has said that those who don't know history cannot create history." Sultan had eradicated Devadasi system, pioneered land reforms and introduced sericulture in India for the first time, he added.

Vijayendra took to X to criticise Mahadevappa he called an "attempt to rewrite well-documented history".

"From the beginning, Siddaramaiah has shown contempt towards the royal family. Just recently, MLC Yathindra stated that his father (Siddaramaiah) was greater than Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wadiyar. Now, Mahadevappa has insulted the legacy and sacrifice behind the construction of the KRS dam," Vijayendra wrote.

He said that the KRS dam was a vision realised through the perseverance and sacrifice of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and backed by the

Mysore royal family.

Vijayendra reminded Mahadevappa that Tipu died in 1799, while the dam was planned more than a century later in 1908.

"The people of Karnataka are aware that the glorification of Tipu is a deliberate political strategy aimed at consolidating Muslim votes," he charged.

Ashoka accused Tipu Sultan of being a traitor to the land, a Persian, and a religious fanatic who killed thousands of Hindus and destroyed temples. "Imposing such a person's name on KRS reveals the Congress mindset".

Similarly, Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Mysuru-Kodagu MP and member of the royal family hit back at Mahadevappa's statement, demanding proof to back the claim.

"It has become a habit for few politicians nowadays to grab political mileage, to secure its vote bank by issuing such statements", he said.
—Salar News with Agencies

GAJAPAYANA BEGINS

The Gajapayana (elephant journey) for the first batch of nine dasara elephants heralding the commencement of Mysuru dasara festivities. Thousands of people gathered near Nagarhole, on Monday
PHOTO: SALAR

SECURITY GUARD ATTACKS AND FLASHES WOMAN IN KENGERI

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

A security guard was arrested for allegedly attacking a 35-year-old woman and flashing her following a quarrel, police said on Monday.

The incident occurred on Saturday night in Kengeri, they said.

According to police, in her complaint, the woman, who runs a canteen near a vacant plot, supervised by the man alleged that they have a quarrel over space. When she tried to raise the issue with the owner, it didn't go well with him.

Following this, she alleged that the watchman allegedly hurled expletives at her.

He also attacked her with a sharp weapon and flashed her in front of the public, a senior police officer said.

A case was registered under sections of relevant sections of the BNS. *—PTI*

STIRRING THE POT

Reports falsely claim mazaar illegally built in Kalaburagi varsity

YOHAN P HONADDI
KALABURAGI, 4 AUG

A controversy erupted after media reports claimed that an unauthorised dargah-like structure (mazaar) was built overnight in the Central University of Kalaburagi (CUK) campus. However, a SALAR NEWS fact check found the reports to be false.

Several prominent Kannada digital and satellite media outlets had falsely claimed that tombs were built overnight in the CUK campus near Kadaganchi village in Aland taluk. In response, the university deployed security personnel around the tombs and restricted photography and videography.

Local police have also reportedly visited the site, the CUK Registrar said.

Residents of Kadaganchi village revealed that the CUK campus houses two historically significant sites — the

Several prominent Kannada news outlets claimed that the mazaar in the CUK campus was built overnight
PHOTO: SALAR

mazaar called Ghaib Peer or Khwaja Bande Nawaz and a Lakshmi and Beeralingeshwara temples.

"These tombs have always existed within the university premises. I have seen the news circulated in the media," said Prof. RR Biradar, the CUK Registrar.

The university campus spans more than 650 acres and includes the Bande Nawaz Dargah, Ghaib Peer Dargah, Lakshmi Temple, and Beeralingeshwara Temple.

Two residents of Kadaganchi, Mehboob Sab and Shivalingappa Pasare, said that the tombs had been there since ancient times. One exclaimed that it had been there since their "great-grandfather's time".

They were both 76-year olds. *—Salar News*

Dharmasthala: Skeletal remains found at a new site

DHARMASTHALA, 4 AUG

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala on Monday recovered multiple skeletal remains from a new site identified by the anonymous complainant, police sources said.

Under the supervision of Director General of Police (DGP) Pranab Mohanty, SIT halted exhumations at the designated 11th site and redirected operations to a previously unexamined spot.

The new site has yielded several skeletal fragments, including skulls and other human bones, sources in the police said, adding that the recovered skeletal remains have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to determine age, gender, and possible cause of death.

Skeletal remains had been found at one previous, but were unable to find anything at most of the others. *—PTI*

SC dismisses Shivananda's defamation appeal

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Supreme Court of India has dismissed an appeal filed by State Minister Shivananda S Patil, challenging a State High Court ruling that quashed a defamation case against BJP MLA Basanagouda R Patil Yatnal. Chief

Justice BR Gavai, sitting with Justice K Vinod Chandran, remarked at the outset, "I always tell you all that fight political battles outside the court and not here."

Patil's lawyer argued that the High Court's decision, dated 28 September 2024, was flawed due to procedural lapses under the BNSS. "He has been a sitting Cabinet rank minister."

The CJI responded, "So what? … Dismissed with a cost of Rs 25,000." The cost was later raised to Rs 1 crore before being waived upon the lawyer's request to withdraw the appeal. The dispute stemmed from allegedly defamatory comments made by Yatnal during a rally preceding the 2023 State Assembly elections. *—PTI*

Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, DyCM DK Shivakumar and others in City on Monday
PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD

RaGa's protest moved to 8 Aug after Soren's death

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

The Congress announced deferring its 5 August protest over alleged electoral fraud 8 August due to the death of former Jharkhand chief minister Shibu Soren. Top party leader Rahul Gandhi was scheduled to lead the agitation on Tuesday.

Addressing reporters here, Congress General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala said Soren will be cremated on Tuesday and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha will attend the last rites.

"The programme will now remain as it is, but will remain deferred to 8 August," Surjewala said, sitting next to State Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

"Shibu Soren stood by the Congress party in difficult times. He also stood by the ideology of the Congress party. May his soul rest in peace." Shivakumar later said.

"Though 8 August is Varamahalakshmi festival, we have decided to give priority to the party work. We will ensure that there are no obstacles for the public celebrating the festival. The senior leaders have instructed us to conduct the legislative party meeting once again, we will discuss it with the CM," he said.

Asked about BJP's counter protest, he said, "We welcome criticisms and protests in a democracy. They are supporting the Election Commission.... During the election, our candidate from Mahadevapura had lodged a complaint but it was not attended to by the Election Commission".
—Salar News with Agencies

BHIMA JEWELS LAUNCHES VARAMAHALAKSHMI OFFERS IN MYSURU

Bhima Jewels, India's trusted name in jewellery, has unveiled special festive offers to mark Varamahalakshmi and the sacred month of Sravana at its Mysuru showroom. The offers is available until 17 August, 2025.

Shoppers can enjoy significant savings on gold, diamond, and silver jewellery, including reduced making charges and attractive discounts.

Alongside its signature gold and diamond collections, Bhima also presents an elegant range of hand-crafted 92.5 sterling silver articles—pooja items, lamps, and traditional ornaments—ideal for spiritual occasions and festive gifting.

AS PART OF THE FESTIVITIES, CUSTOMERS CAN ENJOY:

- Flat 30% off on gold jewellery making charges.
- Up to 30% off per carat on Diamond Jewellery.
- Flat 30% off on making charges of Silver Articles & Jewellery.

About Bhima Jewels: A legacy of 100 years built on trust, craftsmanship, and timeless design.

PHOTO: PTI

Former NCP MLA Mote joins Ajit Pawar faction

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

Rahul Mote, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly and leader of the NCP (Sharad Pawar faction), is set to join the rival faction led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, according to NCP sources. Mote previously represented the Paranda Assembly Constituency in Dharashiv but was defeated by Shiv Sena's Tanaji Sawant in the 2019 polls. After the NCP's split in 2023, he remained with Sharad Pawar's faction but failed to secure a seat in the 2024 elections when he contested against Sawant. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Ex-minister Munde yet to vacate govt bungalow

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

Former Maharashtra minister and NCP leader Dhananjay Munde has yet to vacate the official bungalow 'Satpuda' in Mumbai, four months after resigning from the state cabinet. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis acknowledged Munde's extended stay, stating, "I am not aware of how much fine amount is levied on Munde for his extended stay in the official bungalow. I will have to find out the details." Senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal, waiting for an official residence since May, expressed frustration: "The official residence allotted to me is still occupied by a former minister who is also my party colleague. If asked, I will ask the CM to give me a small residence to work with." *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Cow should've entered new Parl: Shankaracharya

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

Shankaracharya Avimukteshwaranand has said a live cow should have been taken into the new Parliament building during its inauguration, arguing that if a cow is engraved on the Sengol sceptre, a real one should be allowed to bless the premises. He warned that if this is not done, cows from across India will be brought to Parliament. The Hindu pontiff further said the Dharma Sansad has passed a congratulatory resolution in support of Hoshangabad MP Darshan Singh Chowdhary, who had demanded that the cow be declared as Rashtramata (Mother of the Nation). *—PTI*

Stalin backs Didi in Bengali language row

CHENNAI, 4 AUG

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has condemned Delhi Police for allegedly referring to Bengali as the "national language of Bangladesh" in an official letter, calling it a "direct insult" and a reflection of a "dark mindset". He said this undermines India's linguistic diversity. Stalin expressed solidarity with WB CM Mamata Banerjee, who called the remark "insulting, anti-national & unconstitutional". He praised her for standing firm against what he termed an attack on non-Hindi languages "These are not mere slips, but deliberate attempts to weaponise identity," he said on social media, demanding accountability from the Union Home Ministry. *—PTI*

India deserves a more responsible LoP: BJP

Rahul is 'China guru' who hates Indian Army, BJP claims

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

As the Supreme Court rapped Rahul Gandhi over his remarks about the Indian Army on Monday, the BJP tore into him, alleging he has vowed to "weaken India and strengthen China". The saffron party also demanded for a new Leader of Opposition (LoP) as India "deserves a more responsible LoP".

Latching on to the SC's observations as it stayed the proceedings against the Congress leader, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that Gandhi keeps making "immature, irresponsible & anti-India comments".

"Does India deserve a more responsible and a better Leader of Opposition (LoP)? As the LoP who has taken oath under the Constitution to protect the sovereignty of our country, is he destroying the sovereignty of our country? Is he helping nations that are inimical to our country? Is he demoralising the brave Indian armed forces?" he asked.

Rahul Gandhi's credibility is 'at stake', says BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia **PHOTO: PTI**

Rahul Gandhi's credibility is "at stake", Bhatia said.

Reacting to the development, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya said in a post on X, "The Supreme Court has once again reprimanded 'China Guru' Rahul Gandhi for making irresponsible statements concerning India's national security & territorial integrity." Malviya also took on the Congress leader over his recent "dead" economy remark, calling it "a diplomatic disaster on multiple fronts".

"His recent 'dead economy' jibe is just the latest in a long series. In doing so, he implicitly admitted that Russia, a long-standing ally, is struggling, while bizarrely endorsing a hostile state like Pakistan as having a robust economy," he said.

Echoing US President Donald Trump's criticism of the Indian economy, Gandhi said on 1 August that everybody except PM Narendra Modi & FM Nirmala Sitharaman know that country's economy is "dead". *—PTI*

Security personnel during an anti-terror operation, in Kulgam district, J&K, on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Drones hunt for terrorists in Kulgam Op

SRINAGAR, 4 AUG

- The Army is set to integrate UAVs and anti-drone systems as standard assets at the battalion level, alongside forming light commando battalions, specialised artillery units, and integrated "Rudra" brigades

The anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district entered its fourth day on Monday, with security forces intensifying efforts to neutralise the remaining terrorists holed up in the forested Akhal area.

Three terrorists have been killed so far since the operation began on Friday.

Security forces are employing drones, helicopters, and ground troops in the ongoing operation. The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) marks a shift in strategy, aligning with the Indian Army's broader plan to modernise its combat structure. The Army is set to integrate UAVs and anti-drone systems as standard assets at the battalion level, alongside forming light commando battalions, specialised artillery units, and integrated "Rudra" brigades.

This modernisation drive has gained urgency following recent attacks, including the Pahalgam ambush.

Meanwhile, officials confirmed on Monday that the three terrorists involved in the 28 July, Pahalgam attack were Pakistani nationals and senior Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives.

They were killed during a separate encounter in Dachigam forest near Srinagar, in an operation codenamed 'Mahadev'. Security agencies recovered documents issued by the Pakistan government and biometric data, confirming their identities and foreign origin. *—PTI*

Kaleshwaram project: KCR blamed for poor planning and irregularities

HYDERABAD, 4 AUG

A judicial commission investigating the Kaleshwaram project, initiated during the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) regime, has reportedly found former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) accountable for alleged irregularities related to the project.

State Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy presented a summary of the commission's findings during a state cabinet meeting.

According to sources, the Commission's report indicates that Rao was both "directly and indirectly responsible" for the irregularities from the planning and construction phases through to the operation and maintenance of associated barrages.

Former irrigation minister T Harish Rao, KCR's nephew, was also implicated.

Despite a committee of experts recommending against the commencement of the Kaleshwaram project, it was claimed that the BRS regime "intentionally suppressed" this report.

The commission issued a comprehensive report totalling 665 pages, with a 60-page summary highlighting KCR's name 32 times, Harish Rao's 19 times, and former finance minister Eatala Rajender's five times.

Rajender has been described as negligent.

Former Supreme Court judge justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose submitted the report to Principal Secretary (Irrigation) Rahul Bojja on 31 July.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed senior officials on 1 August to study the judicial panel's report and submit its summary to the state cabinet on 4 August. *—PTI*

FOR ENROLMENT DRIVE

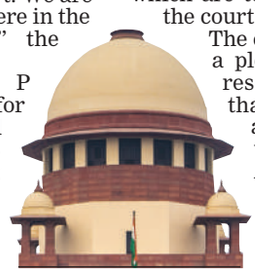
SC upholds HC's ban on DMK's OTP plea

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay an interim injunction by the Madras High Court against the use of OTP verification messages for the DMK's enrolment drive 'Oraniyil Tamil Nadu'.

The apex court dismissed DMK's plea saying the issue is sensitive and the whole process is suspect. "The court has to protect the citizens. Go back to the high court. We are not inclined to interfere in the matter. Dismissed," the bench said.

Senior advocate P Wilson, appearing for the DMK, submitted that the party was not collecting Aadhaar details and contended that the HC had wrongly passed the order.



"My whole programme has come to a standstill. 1.7 Crore members have come and offered thematic. I am not doing what other parties like BJP and AAP are doing. I am not collecting Aadhaar details," Wilson said.

On 21 July, Madras HC issued an injunction restraining DMK from using OTP verification messages for its enrolment drive, saying the matter involves aspects of data protection and privacy which are to be examined by the court.

The court was hearing a plea by Sivagangai resident who said that DMK cadres and functionaries were collecting Aadhaar and other personal details from the public in his locality. *—PTI*

GOVT TO PUSH BILLS IN DIN IF OPPN PROTESTS

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

With Parliament witnessing repeated disruptions over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday warned that the government may be compelled to pass bills amid uproar if protests continue.

While LS saw minimal proceedings, RS was adjourned for the day to mourn the passing of its member and former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren.

Rijiju asserted that the government is committed to detailed parliamentary debate but cannot delay its legislative agenda indefinitely. "If the Opposition continues its obstruction, we will be compelled to push forward in national interest from Tuesday," he said.

He criticised Oppn parties for reneging on their agreement for a two-day discussion on National Sports Governance Bill and National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, which were scheduled for discussion and passage in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Oppn has demanded a debate on the SIR exercise, alleging misuse in Bihar. Rijiju firmly rejected this, stating Parliament cannot discuss the administrative functions of EC. *—PTI*

Bihar's teacher hiring to have domicile policy

PATNA, 4 AUG

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced the introduction of a domicile policy for the recruitment of government school teachers.

The move will give priority to candidates who are permanent residents of Bihar and will be implemented from the upcoming Teachers Recruitment Exam (TRE)-4 in 2025.

The CM stated that the Education Department has been directed to amend the recruitment rules accordingly. However, he did not clarify the percentage of posts that would be reserved for domiciled candidates.

The announcement follows rising demands and protests by job seekers, who recently blocked roads in Patna, calling for a domicile policy. The state government has already restricted the 35 per cent women's quota in government jobs to permanent residents only.

Nitish Kumar **PHOTO: PTI**

With assembly elections due this year, the issue has gained political traction. Opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav has promised 100 per cent domicile-based recruitment if his party comes to power. *—PTI*

Mukhtar Ansari's son held in UP over forged docus

LUCKNOW, 4 AUG

Umar Ansari, the son of the late gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari, has been arrested for allegedly submitting forged documents in court to reclaim his father's seized properties. The properties were confiscated under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters Act.

The police statement revealed that a petition was filed for the release of the properties following Mukhtar Ansari's death in March.

It is claimed that Umar Ansari sought to gain illicitly by submitting purportedly forged documents with fake signatures of his mother, Afshan Ansari,

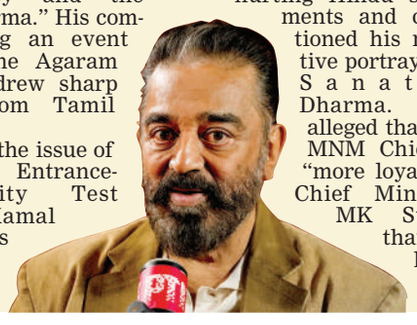
who is currently absconding and has a reward of Rs 50,000 on her head. A case has been registered against Umar at the Mohammadabad police station, with investigations ongoing. *—PTI*

Only education can break 'chain of Sanatan', says Kamal

CHENNAI, 4 AUG

In a provocative statement, Makkal Needhi Maiam leader Kamal Haasan declared that education is the sole means to "break the chains of autocracy and the Sanatan Dharma." His comments during an event hosted by the Agaram Foundation drew sharp criticism from Tamil Nadu BJP.

Addressing the issue of the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test (NEET), Kamal said, "This is the only weapon that can break the chains... Do not lay your hands on anything else, because... wisdom (knowledge) will lose."



BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan condemned his remarks, asserting he is hurting Hindu sentiments and questioned his negative portrayal of Sanatan Dharma. She alleged that the MNM Chief is "more loyal" to Chief Minister MK Stalin than to his own party, suggesting his comments were aimed at pleasing the DMK Chief.

BJP Vice President Khushbu Sundar also condemned his remarks, arguing that he could have focused on the importance of education without provoking controversy, particularly since NEET was introduced in 2013, before BJP came to power. In 2023, DMK leader and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's comment linking Sanatan Dharma to dengue and malaria led caused an huge controversy and petitions were filed against him in courts. *—PTI*

ABHISHEK BANERJEE NEW BOSS

Kalyan Banerjee resigns as LS whip amid rift with Moitra

KOLKATA, 4 AUG

Senior TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee resigned as the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha on Monday, citing unfair blame for poor coordination among MPs and voicing disillusionment with party's internal functioning.

His resignation follows months of tensions, particularly with Krishnanagar MP Mahua Moitra.

Kalyan, a four-time MP from Sreerampore, said he was being scapegoated despite doing "maximum work". He lashed out at absenteeism among TMC MPs, stating, "Those whom Mamata Banerjee made MPs don't even come to Lok Sabha... I'm being blamed for everything."

His resignation came hours after TMC supremo and WB CM Mamata Banerjee reshuffled parliamentary team, appointing Abhishek Banerjee as the new parliamentary leader, replacing Sudip Bandopadhyay, who has been unwell. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar was also assigned responsibility for day-to-day coordination among MPs in Lower House.

In a virtual meeting of TMC MPs chaired by Mamata, she reportedly expressed deep dissatisfaction over the lack of cohesion in the LS wing, particularly in contrast to the RS. "Factional fights are unacceptable. Public image matters," she said, according to insiders.

An emotional Kalyan said he was hurt by the party's silence over repeated insults from a fellow MP, widely interpreted as a reference to Mahua Moitra. In a lengthy post on X, he accused Moitra of using "gutter insults", referring to a recent podcast where she allegedly compared him to a "pig" and called him "sexually frustrated".

"Such language reinforces a toxic double standard. Abuse is abuse – regardless of gender," he said.

Despite claiming the resignation was voluntary, Kalyan reportedly told close associates he was pushed out due to internal feud with Moitra & a prior dispute with Kirti Azad.

In a late development, Kalyan said TMC General Secretary Abhishek had called him and requested he stay on as whip for a few more days, promising to meet him on 7 August.

The reshuffle is being seen as a move to reset floor strategy in light of internal discord and absenteeism. Monday's meeting was attended by MPs from both LS & RS. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Puri girl, who died of burn injuries, laid to rest

BHUBANESWAR, 4 AUG

The 15-year-old girl from Odisha's Puri who succumbed to burn injuries at AIIMS-New Delhi was laid to rest at her native village on Monday amid heavy security. The girl's mortal remains were buried in the presence of her grieving family members at the nondescript village on the bank of the Bhargavi river. The funeral and the procession ahead of it were held amid heavy security, with around 100 police personnel deployed. The girl, who had received over 70 per cent burn injuries, died on Saturday. Her family had earlier alleged that she was set on fire by three miscreants on July 19. Following her death, police claimed that no one else was involved in the case. Later, her father also issued a video statement, stating that she ended her life due to emotional distress. *—PTI*

ABVP leader held over Odisha girl's self-immolation

BHUBANESWAR, 4 AUG

Two men were arrested in Odisha's Balasore district for allegedly instigating a 20-year-old college student to die by self-immolation, police said on Monday. The Crime Branch apprehended the duo on Sunday, in connection with suicide by death of a female student at Balasore college, who set herself on fire. After her repeated complaints of sexual harassment was "not validated" by an Internal Enquiry Committee of the institute, the police had said. "The arrested persons are Jyoti Prakash Biswal, a student of the college, who had sustained burn injuries in an attempt to save the woman, and Subhra Sambait Nayak, the State Joint Secretary of a student organisation," the officer said. Earlier, three people were arrested for abetment of suicide. *—PTI*

Cop arrested for graft; 44 plots, 1 kg gold found

BHUBANESWAR, 4 AUG

A motor vehicle inspector was arrested in Odisha's Boudh district on Monday after 44 plots, 1 kg of gold and other valuables were allegedly found in his possession, officials said. Golap Chandra Hansdah, working at the RTO in Boudh, was arrested after assets disproportionate to his known sources of income were found in his possession, they said. A case under the Prevention of Corruption Act was registered against him, they added. Among the other valuables found in his possession were a multi-storeyed building, 2 kg of silver, Rs 2.38 lakh in cash and Rs 1.34 crore in deposits, officials said. Besides, a diary with details of benami transactions was recovered from him, they said. "The MVI could not account for possession of the assets satisfactorily," an official said.*—PTI*

UP panchayat poll 'winner' says rival got more votes

CHAMPAWAT, 4 AUG

A candidate in the recent panchayat elections has requested a recount after discovering a discrepancy in the vote tally. Kajal Bisht, who was mistakenly declared the winner for the Tarkuli gram panchayat head with 103 votes, informed the election officer that her rival, Sumit Kumar, actually secured 106 votes. "I told the election officer that I did not win the election, I lost. My opponent got three more votes than me, so the certificate should be given to the rightful winner," stated Bisht. Following an unresolved matter with the election officer, she has now approached the court of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Anurag Arya, who has ordered a recount within 30 days.*—PTI*

Philippines, India hold 1st naval drill in S China Sea

China has long-standing territorial disputes with both nations

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

India has deepened maritime cooperation with key Southeast Asian partners through separate naval exercises with the Philippines and Singapore in the disputed South China Sea, underscoring its growing regional engagement and commitment to a rules-based order.

For the first time, India and the Philippines conducted joint sail and naval exercises in the South China Sea, a move likely to antagonise China. The two-day manoeuvres, which began Sunday, were deemed "successful" by Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Romeo Brawner. He stated that while Chinese vessels shadowed the joint patrol, "we did not experience any untoward incident."

China has long-standing territorial disputes with both India and the Philippines. In recent years, Beijing's expansive maritime claims have led to confrontations with other claimant states, including Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Brawner emphasised the Philippines' need to boost deterrence through military modernisation and partnerships with like-minded nations. Speaking aboard the visiting tanker INS Shakti, he described the joint activities as a "powerful signal of solidarity" and praised India as a partner in maintaining regional stability.

Meanwhile, in Singapore, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Indian Navy concluded their annual bilateral maritime exercise, SIMBEX, held from 28 July to 1 August. The shore phase at RSS Singapura–Changi Naval Base included planning, simulator training, and professional exchanges. The sea phase, in the southern South China Sea, featured gunnery firing, air-defence drills, and complex maritime operations.

India deployed the INS Satpura, while Singapore contributed RSS Supreme and RSS Vigilance, supported by air assets including F-15SG fighter jets and maritime patrol aircraft.

SIMBEX, first held in 1994, is India's longest-running bilateral naval exercise and marks its 32nd edition this year, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and Singapore.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is currently in India on a five-day state visit aimed at boosting defence and trade ties. *—PTI*

Indian Naval Ships of the Eastern Fleet, as part of the Navy's ongoing operational deployment to South East Asia, arrive at Manila, Philippines *PHOTO: PTI*

SC slams UP over Banke Bihari corridor

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

In a setback for the Uttar Pradesh government, the Supreme Court on Monday said it may put in abeyance its May 15 approval for the Banke Bihari Temple Corridor in Vrindavan, citing lack of hearing for key stakeholders.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi criticised the state's "clandestine" approach in bypassing temple stakeholders and the court receiver to secure approval for the scheme. The court also questioned the urgency behind enacting the Uttar Pradesh Shri Bankey Bihari Ji Temple Trust Ordinance, 2025, which transfers temple management to the state.

The court said it will appoint a retired judge to oversee temple affairs and ensure stakeholder inclusion. It directed the Additional Solicitor General to seek instructions, scheduling the next hearing for 5 August.

"This is Lord Krishna's land... Religious tourism is a major revenue source. Let's resolve this long-pending dispute in the interest of lakhs of devotees," the bench observed.

The court rebuked the government for planning to use temple funds to acquire land instead of state funds, and for acting while the matter was sub judice. It clarified that the ordinance's constitutionality will be decided by the high court.

Petitioners, including the temple's management committee, have been asked to submit suggestions for temple governance. *—PTI*

Smoking raises risk of slipped discs: Doctors

SHILLONG, 4 AUG

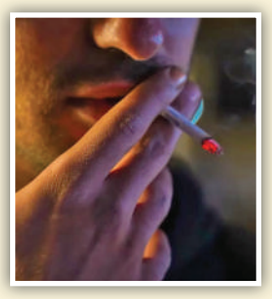
Doctors at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) here have warned that smoking significantly increases the risk of developing a slipped disc, also known as lumbar disc herniation.

The warning came after a successful surgery was performed on a patient with recurrent lumbar disc herniation.

A team led by surgeon Dr Bhaskar Borgohain recently carried out a tubular microdiscectomy successfully to relieve the pressure on the S1 nerve root on a patient admitted at NEIGRIHMS. Four large fragments of the disc were removed during the minimally invasive procedure.

"Research suggests that smoking is one of the risk factors for slipped discs, possibly due to damage to collagen fibres in the disc's outer ring caused by toxic hydrocarbons in cigarette smoke," Dr Borgohain said.

Doctors at NEIGRIHMS have urged the public to avoid smoking not only to reduce the risk of spinal problems but also to improve overall musculoskeletal health. *—PTI*



₹422 CR FLYOVER SINKS

A part of Patna's double-deck flyover, built at Rs 422 crore, reportedly sank on Sunday following heavy rainfall, two months after its inauguration. This comes amid a spate of crumbling infrastructure in the state. In 2025, Bihar saw at least 10 bridges collapse, some fell even before inauguration *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

Man smuggles ₹14.73 crore ganja in 'diplomatic' cargo

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

Mumbai Customs has arrested a traveller at the international airport here for allegedly trying to smuggle 15 kg of hydroponic weed with an estimated value of Rs 14.73 crore, officials said.

The contraband was concealed in a packet labelled as "Diplomatic Pouch of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)", officials said on Sunday. The traveller had landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport from Bangkok, an official said.

"During the examination of his baggage, Customs officers recovered 14.738 kg of suspected hydroponic weed," he said, adding that the accused was trying to smuggle the contraband by falsely declaring the consignment as confidential diplomatic cargo linked to national security.

- The contraband was concealed in a packet labelled as 'Diplomatic Pouch of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)'. The traveller came from Bangkok, an official said

The contraband was concealed inside envelopes bearing purported markings of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), he said, adding that the trolley bag also contained copies of various fake "top secret mission" reports. *—PTI*

ABETMENT CASE

Public interest: HC frees scientist jailed over wife's suicide

NAINITAL, 4 AUG

The Uttarakhand High Court has stayed the conviction and five-year rigorous imprisonment of vaccine scientist Akash Yadav, found guilty of abetting his wife's suicide.

Justice Ravindra Maithani, presiding over a single bench, granted relief to Yadav, a PhD in biotechnology from IIT Kharagpur, citing larger public interest. The court noted that Yadav, currently a senior manager at Indian Immunologicals Ltd., plays a critical role in vaccine research and development, and his conviction hindered his ability to perform these duties.

Yadav was originally charged under the Dowry Prohibition Act and for his wife's dowry-related death. However, a trial court in Rudrapur acquitted him of the dowry charges but convicted him for abetment of suicide, sentencing him to five years' rigorous imprisonment.

The High Court had earlier granted Yadav bail and stayed the execution of the sentence during the pendency of his appeal. In a subsequent appeal, Yadav sought a stay on the conviction itself, arguing that continued conviction barred him from contributing to crucial vaccine work.

Referring to legal precedents on suspension of conviction and execution of sentence, the court ordered both to be stayed until the final disposal of the appeal. *—PTI*

Cockroaches spotted on AI's San Francisco flight

The aircraft was subjected to a deep cleaning by the airline's ground crew during a scheduled fuel stop in Kolkata on Monday morning *PHOTO: PTI*

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Air India passengers on a San Francisco–Mumbai flight were startled to find small cockroaches on board, prompting the airline to launch a comprehensive investigation into the incident.

The flight, AI180, operated by a Boeing 777, had a scheduled fuel stop in Kolkata early Monday morning. During this stop, the aircraft underwent deep cleaning by the airline's ground crew to address the pest issue.

According to a statement from Air India, two passengers were disturbed by the presence of cockroaches during the flight. Cabin crew immediately relocated them to other seats in the same cabin, where they remained comfortable for the rest of the journey.

"Despite our regular fumigation efforts, insects can sometimes enter an aircraft during ground operations," an airline spokesperson said, adding that Air India will probe the source of the infestation and implement corrective measures to prevent future occurrences.

The airline apologised for the inconvenience caused and reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining high hygiene standards. Flight tracking website Flightradar24 confirmed the aircraft type and route.

Details about the total number of passengers on board were not disclosed. The aircraft continued to Mumbai after the cleaning was completed in Kolkata. *—PTI*

MP woman's family of 4 kills self over illicit affair

BHOPAL, 4 AUG

A woman and her lover have been arrested in Madhya Pradesh for allegedly abetting the suicide of her husband, two teenage children, and mother-in-law in a shocking incident that occurred on the night of 25–26 July.

The deceased are Manohar Lodhi, 45; his 70-year-old mother; daughter Shivani, 18; and a younger son. Police said Manohar's wife Draupadi was in an illicit relationship with his childhood friend, Surendra.

Despite repeated objections from the family, the two refused to end the affair, reportedly stating they "could not live without each other."

Officials said Shivani had seen her mother with Surendra in intimate situations several times. When the family continued to oppose the relationship, Draupadi allegedly threatened them with false dowry harassment charges.

Unable to bear the emotional and societal pressure, the family consumed Sulphas tablets. *—Agencies*

FOR BAGGAGE RULES

He hit me for doing my job: SpiceJet staffer

SRINAGAR, 4 AUG

A SpiceJet employee, Mudasir Ahmad Khan, has been left bedridden following an alleged assault by an Army officer at Srinagar Airport on 26 July. Khan, who suffered spinal injuries, said he was attacked for enforcing baggage rules.

Khan said he had asked Lieutenant Colonel RK Singh to pay for excess cabin baggage, which exceeded the 7 kg per bag allowance. Singh, reportedly carrying 16kg across two bags, allegedly became aggressive and attacked four airline staff, including Khan.

"He hit me with a bag, punched and slapped me until I was bleeding. I lost consciousness," Khan told PTI, adding the officer prevented others from helping him.

A case has been registered against Lt Col Singh under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 115 for voluntarily causing hurt. Singh, currently posted at the Army's High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg, filed a counter-complaint, leading to an FIR against the staff.

The incident was caught on camera, showing the officer striking employees with a queue stand. SpiceJet confirmed severe injuries to its staff and has initiated action to place the officer on a no-fly list.

The airline condemned the "murderous assault" and submitted CCTV footage to police. It has also written to the Civil Aviation Ministry demanding strict action.

Army officials said they are cooperating fully and await the outcome of the investigation.

"The Army upholds the highest standards of discipline," a defence spokesperson said.

SpiceJet vowed to pursue the matter to its fullest legal and regulatory conclusion. *—PTI*

Mudasir Ahmad Khan suffered two spinal fractures in the assault by an Indian Army officer at Srinagar airport on Monday *PHOTO: PTI*

SHIBU SOREN: A LEGACY OF POWER, STRUGGLES & CONTROVERSIES

Shibu Soren, the veteran tribal leader who played a key role in Jharkhand's creation and founded the JMM, leaves behind a legacy that reshaped the country's politics.

The death of 81-year-old Soren marks the end of a political era that saw tribal movement rise to national prominence.

Born on 11 January, 1944, in Ramgarh district's Nemra village (then in Bihar, now in Jharkhand), Soren, who was popularly known as 'Dishom Guru' (leader of the land) and patriarch of JMM, is one of the most enduring political figures in the country's tribal and regional political landscape.

His political life was defined by continuous advocacy for the rights for tribals.

According to Soren's family, his early life was marked by personal tragedy and deep socio-economic struggles.

Soren was 15 years old when his father, Shobaran Soren, was allegedly killed by money-lenders in Lukaiyatand forest, some 16km from Gola block headquarters on 27 November, 1957.

This left a deep impact on him and became a catalyst for his future political activism.

In 1973, Soren co-founded the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) along with Bengali Marxist trade unionist AK Roy and Kurmi-Mahto leader Binod Bihari Mahto during a public meeting at Golf Ground Dhanbad.

The JMM soon became the primary political voice for the demand for a separate tribal state and got support across the Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana regions.

Soren's grassroots mobilisation against feudal exploitation is said to have shaped him into a tribal icon.

After decades of agitation, steered by him and others, the demand for a separate state was finally fulfilled with the formation of Jharkhand on 15 November, 2000.

Soren's influence was not confined to state politics.

He was elected several times to the Lower House from Dumka – the eighth time between May 2014-2019 as member of the 16th Lok Sabha. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June 2020.

As a key figure in the UPA government, he served as Union Coal Minister from 23 May to 24 July, 2004; 27 November, 2004 to 2 March, 2005; and 29 January to November 2006.

However, his ministerial stints at the Centre were overshadowed by serious legal challenges.

In July 2004, an arrest warrant was issued against him in connection with the 1975 Chirudih massacre case, in which he was named the main accused in the killing of 11 people.

He went underground briefly before being arrested.

After spending time in judicial custody, he was granted bail in September 2004 and re-inducted into the Union Cabinet in November.

Later, a court in March 2008 absolved him of all charges.

His legal woes didn't end there.

On 28 November, 2006, Soren, along with others, was convicted in the sensational 1994 kidnapping and murder case of his former personal secretary, Shashinath Jha.

The CBI alleged that Jha was murdered in Ranchi because he possessed knowledge about a political payoff deal between the Congress and JMM during a no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government in 1993.

The case drew nationwide attention, though Soren later successfully appealed the conviction.

The Supreme Court in April 2018 upheld Soren's acquittal in the case.

Despite these controversies, Soren remained a towering figure in Jharkhand's political sphere.

He served as Chief Minister of Jharkhand three times — 2 March to 11 March, 2005 (just for 10 days), 27 August, 2008 to 12 January, 2009, and from 30 December, 2009 to 31 May, 2010.

Each term was short-lived due to the fragile nature of coalition politics in the state.

In June 2007, Soren survived an assassination attempt when bombs were hurled at his convoy near Dumaria village in Deoghar district while he was being escorted to jail in Dumka, after appearing in a court in Giridih, underlining the high stakes and volatile environment surrounding his political life.

Yet, his political dominance in Jharkhand politics endured, both through his personal appeal and through his party, which he continues to lead as founding patron.

Soren served as the JMM's chief for 38 years until April 2025, when he was made the party's founding patron. His son, Hemant Soren, who had served as executive president, was elected JMM president.

The party is currently a member of the opposition INDIA bloc at the national level.

Shibu Soren's personal life has also been closely tied to his political narrative.

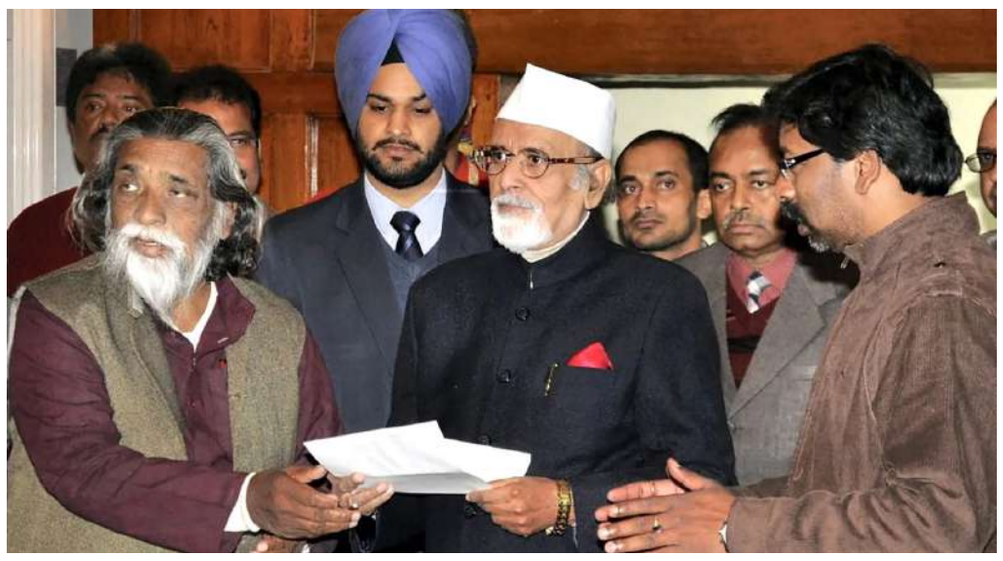
He is survived by wife Roopi Soren, three sons and daughter Anjani, who is the party's Odisha unit head.

His elder son Durga Soren died in May 2009.

The other son Hemant Soren, has carried forward the family's political legacy and currently serves as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand, having held the position across multiple terms.

His youngest son Basant Soren is a legislator.

For many in Jharkhand, Shibu Soren remains a symbol of their long-fought struggle for identity and self-rule—a legacy that continues through the next generation. —*PTI*

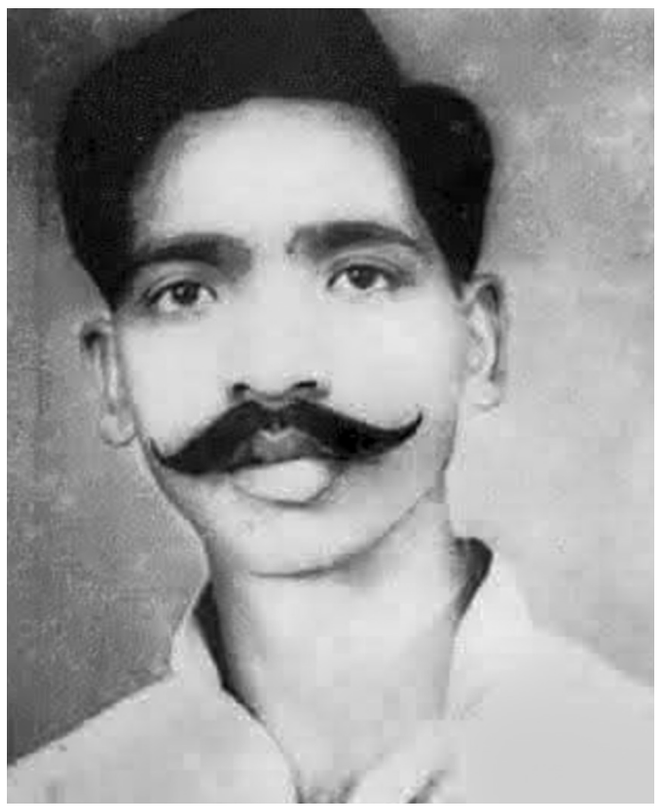


Shibu Soren, Hemant Soren and other party MLAs handing over the letter of withdrawal of support to Jharkhand's BJP government to the then governor Syed Ahmed at Raj Bhavan in Ranchi, in 2013; A file photo of Soren gardening at his official residence, in Ranchi

Undated photos of Shibu Soren with with his family

PHOTOS: PTI

- Born on 11 January, 1944, in Ramgarh district's Nemra village (then in Bihar, now in Jharkhand), Soren, who was popularly known as 'Dishom Guru' (leader of the land) and patriarch of JMM, is one of the most enduring political figures in the country's tribal and regional political landscape



JMM founder Shibu Soren in his younger days ***PHOTO: PTI***

Guru Ji, the way you gave direction to the struggle of the tribals, natives, and the exploited-oppressed people against the Mahajani system and addiction will always be remembered by future generations. You will forever remain in our hearts

-Champai Soren, Former Jharkhand Chief Minister

Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

The demise of Shri Shibu Soren Ji is a big loss in the space of social justice. He championed the cause of tribal identity and formation of the state of Jharkhand

-Droupadi Murmu, President

A strong voice of the tribal society, Soren ji fought for their rights and interests throughout his life. His role in the creation of Jharkhand will always be remembered

-Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition of Lok Sabha

A chapter of Jharkhand's history comes to an end today

-Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Chief Minister

Thiru Shibu Soren's life was defined by relentless resistance against exploitation and an unshakeable commitment to social justice

-MK Stalin, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Crisis of character and relevance: What lies ahead for JD(S)?

The Janata Dal (Secular), once a powerful regional force in Karnataka politics, finds itself at a critical juncture -- morally, electorally, and organisationally, as the first family of the party grapples with one of its gravest challenges yet.

The recent life sentence handed to former MP Prajwal Revanna in a rape case has not only disgraced the political scion but also cast a long shadow over the future of a party already in decline.

Prajwal, grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment by a special court for sexually assaulting a 48-year-old domestic worker at the family's farmhouse and Bengaluru residence in 2021.

The court held him guilty under multiple sections of the IPC and IT Act, imposing stiff punishments and a hefty fine of Rs 11.5 lakh, of which Rs 11.25 lakh is to be paid to the survivor.

The court's ruling underlined the severity of the offence and the convict's abuse of power as a sitting Member of Parliament.

For the JD(S), a party that has long projected itself as a custodian of regional pride and farmer interests, the damage is far deeper than electoral numbers or public perception.

This scandal strikes at the very credibility of a party that has for decades been tightly controlled by the Gowda family. Now that control is under scrutiny.

The timing of this blow could not be worse. The party is still reeling from a steep decline in the 2023 Assembly elections, where it slipped from 37 MLAs in 2018 to just 19, a near halving of its legislative strength.

That drubbing not only eroded its bargaining power but forced the JD(S), which had long claimed the 'secular' mantle, into an uneasy alliance with the BJP—a party it had fiercely opposed in public rhetoric for years by calling it 'communal'.

The ideological compromise left many of its core voters disillusioned, with some drifting towards Congress and others simply disengaging.

In this weakened state, Prajwal's conviction adds more challenges.

The fact that the victim in the case was a worker in the Revanna household makes the incident not only criminal but a betrayal of trust and power.

The surfacing of explicit videos ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, in which Prajwal made a losing bid from his traditional Hassan seat, further compounded the shame.

The implications are manifold. For one, the JD(S) brand, which is already battered by its image as a family-run party, is now deeply tainted.

The involvement of a key member of the founding family in such a grave offence may alienate even its loyal voter base in the Old Mysuru region.

Secondly, questions are being raised about whether the party leadership was aware of Prajwal's conduct earlier and chose to shield him, as the offences date back to 2021 but became public only in 2024.

Gowda, now 91, has remained silent in public since the verdict. Gowda's son, Revanna, who is the father of Prajwal and a prominent JD(S) leader himself, is also under the legal scanner in related cases.

This leaves the party without a clear moral voice or a viable next-generation leader, especially with the once-promising Prajwal now behind bars for life.

The JD(S) second-in-Command and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy tried to project his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy as the third generation leader of the JD(S) but his drubbing in the three successive elections starting from Mandya Lok Sabha election in 2019 to 2024 Channapatna bypolls shattered the expectations of the Gowda clan and deepened the leadership crisis in the family-held party.

Senior journalist Ramakrishna Upadhya noted that the JD(S) has been on a steady decline over the past 26 years.

"The party's prospects have diminished from election to election. In the 2023 Assembly polls, they were reduced to just 19 seats and a 19 per cent vote share—their lowest in over two decades.

Gowda, sensing the party's waning clout, struck a clever understanding with the BJP, which benefitted both sides. But the Prajwal Revanna episode is nothing short of a disaster," he said.

According to Upadhya, the BJP was initially hesitant to allow the JD(S) to field Prajwal as a candidate in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, but Deve Gowda insisted. "Now they've suffered a deadly blow. Prajwal's political career is finished," he remarked.

He also pointed to a long-standing internal rivalry within the Gowda family, particularly between Kumaraswamy and his brother Revanna, each seeking to promote their respective sons as political heirs. "Revanna pushed hard for his son Prajwal, while Kumaraswamy made three failed attempts to launch his son Nikhil," Upadhya said.

In the aftermath of this crisis, speculation is rife about the party's future. Some believe JD(S) may try to sever formal ties with its tainted members and rebuild under new leadership. Others, like Upadhya, believe the party may either align more formally with the BJP for the 2028 Assembly elections or eventually merge with BJP. —*PTI*

JD(S) second-in-command HD Kumaraswamy has the tough task of keeping the party's legacy going even as ex-MP Prajwal Revanna is in prison for rape. (Right) He was taken into custody by woman cop ***PHOTO: PTI***

Ohio state gets Indian-origin solicitor general

NEW YORK, 4 AUG

Indian-origin lawyer Mathura Sridharan has been appointed as Ohio's 12th Solicitor General, the state's leading attorney for appeals in state and federal courts. Attorney General Dave Yost expressed pride in selecting Sridharan, calling her "a relentless defender of Ohioans" with a "brilliant legal mind." Sridharan stated, "It is an honour and a privilege to stand up for the rights and freedoms of my fellow Ohioans." However, her appointment faced backlash online, with some users making racist comments, including criticisms of her wearing a bindi. Questions were raised about the selection of an individual perceived as foreign, with remarks such as, "Do they have anyone in Ohio who doesn't look like an ad for the H1B visa programme?" —*PTI*

Seven killed, 11 injured in Mexican prison riots

TUXPAN, 4 AUG

Authorities in Veracruz announced they have restored order in a prison following a riot that resulted in seven fatalities and 11 injuries. The Department of Public Security of Veracruz stated that injured prisoners are receiving medical attention and that fires set by inmates have been extinguished. Footage from Tuxpan showed smoke rising from the facility, and some inmates recorded videos claiming the unrest began when a group revolted against the criminal organisation Grupo Sombra, which they accused of extorting both prisoners and their families. The Tuxpan prison housed 778 inmates as of June, despite being designed for only 735. —*PTI*

Druze clashes bring down Syria truce

SUWAYDA, 4 AUG

Druze armed groups has attacked Syria's internal security forces in Suwayda province, killing at least one soldier and injuring several others, besides shelling several villages in the southern region, Al Jazeera reported, citing state-run Ekhbariya TV. According to the report on Sunday, a security source claimed the groups violated a ceasefire agreement in the predominantly Druze area, where sectarian violence last month killed hundreds. In response, the Syrian government said in a statement, "The media and sectarian mobilisation campaigns led by the rebel gangs in the city have not ceased over the past period." Meanwhile, reports suggested that Kurdish militants clashed with government forces in northern Syria. —*PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

WKRP in Cincinnati star Loni Anderson dies at 79

LOS ANGELS, 4 AUG

Loni Anderson, beloved for her role as the savvy receptionist Jennifer Marlowe in the classic sitcom 'WKRP in Cincinnati,' has died at the age of 79, just days before her 80th birthday. Anderson passed away in a Los Angeles hospital after a prolonged illness, her publicist Cheryl J. Kagan confirmed. "We are heartbroken to announce the passing of our dear wife, mother and grandmother," her family stated. Celebrated also for her roles alongside Burt Reynolds, Anderson's career spanned both television and film. "I think if you're going to write about yourself, you have to do it warts and all," she said of her autobiography. She is survived by her husband Bob Flick, two children, and several grandchildren. A private family service is planned. —*PTI*

Kremlin warns against Trump's 'nuke rhetoric'

As Trump repositions US submarines, Russia plays it down

MOSCOW, 4 AUG

The Kremlin urged US President Donald Trump to exercise caution when talking about nuclear weapons. After an online fight with Dmitry Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council, Trump had announced the redeployment of two American nuclear submarines near Russia.

"Overall, of course, we do not wish to be drawn into such a discussion or comment on it. We approach any statements related to nuclear issues with great caution. As you know, Russia holds a responsible position. President Putin's stance is well known," Russia's Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, adding that Russia prioritises nuclear non-proliferation and believes all parties should exercise extreme care in their nuclear statements.

Peskov emphasised the importance of careful nuclear rhetoric, warning against escalation.

Medvedev had earlier referenced Russia's automated nuclear retaliation system, known as the "Dead Hand," in response to Trump's comments that the Russian economy was "dead".

Peskov stressed that all sides should show restraint when addressing nuclear issues,

US President Donald Trump had set Friday deadline for the Kremlin to stop the Ukraine War or face economic penalties from Washington **PHOTO: X**

noting Russia's firm commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. "Russia takes the issue of nuclear non-proliferation very seriously. And, of course, we believe that everyone should be extremely careful when it comes to nuclear rhetoric," the Kremlin spokesman added, as quoted by TASS.

His remarks come ahead of Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff visit to Moscow on Wednesday or Thursday, just before the US President's Friday deadline for the Kremlin to stop the Ukraine War or face potentially severe economic penalties from Washington.

"They would like to see (Witkoff)," Trump said Sunday of the Russians. "They've asked that he meet so we'll see what happens." However, Trump was apprehensive about whether the sanctions would work. "They're wily characters," he said. "(Russians were) pretty good at avoiding sanctions."

CHINA PUSHES BACK

China pushed back against US' sanctions over Beijing purchasing Russian and Iranian oil.

"Coercion and pressuring will not achieve anything. China will firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests," China's Foreign Ministry said. —*Agencies*

Zelenskyy announces another prisoner exchange

KYIV, 4 AUG

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday that Ukraine and Russia have agreed to exchange 1,200 prisoners following their latest round of negotiations in Istanbul in July.

"There is an agreement to exchange 1,200 people," he wrote on X, saying that the lists of individuals to be swapped were being worked on and that they were working to "unblock the return of our civilians".

There was no immediate comment from Russia.

Zelenskyy also said he discussed with top Ukrainian officials "the negotiation track -- specifically, the implementation of the agreements reached during the meetings with the Russian side in Istanbul, as well as preparations for a new meeting".

Each of the three rounds of talks between the countries this year has resulted in prisoner exchanges but yielded no breakthrough in reaching a ceasefire. —*PTI*

Trump says tariffs are for fairness, not leverage

WASHINGTON, 4 AUG

US President Donal Trump said that he was looking for fairness, not leverage, days after he announced revised tariffs on more than a dozen countries. Trump said the US should have imposed tariffs years ago.

"We're going to pay down debt. We have a lot of money coming in - much more money than the country's ever seen. One of the things we're going to be doing is reducing debt. We should've done this many years ago. I did this during my first term with China. We didn't get to the rest because Covid hit," Trump said Monday.

He added that he wants to see reciprocal tariffs "wherever" he can.

"I'm not looking for leverage, I'm looking for fairness. We want to see reciprocal wherever we can and as much as possible. Sometimes, it would be too much for them to handle. It would be a much bigger number. And all I can say is this: Our country will be taking in hundreds of billions of dollars."—*Agencies*

Trump calls Charlamagne racist after radio host criticises him

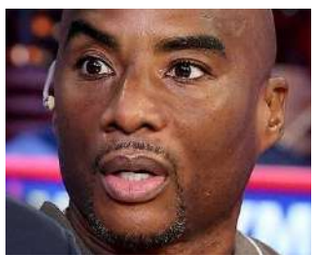
WASHINGTON, 4 AUG

US President Donald Trump on Sunday lashed out at radio host Charlamagne Tha God, saying that the popular broadcaster "knows nothing about me or what I have done".

Trump's comments came a day after Charlamagne, whose real name is Lenard McKelvey, criticised Trump on a Fox News show hosted by Lara Trump, the President's daughter-in-law.

Charlamagne had said he personally will benefit from tax breaks approved in Trump's tax-and spending law, but said, "There is going to be so many people that is hurt by that Bill."

"Anything that takes away Medicaid from people and will



Radio host Charlamagne Tha God **PHOTO: X**

> **(Sydney Sweeney) is a registered Republican? Oh, now I love her (American Eagle) ad! Is that right? You'd be surprised at how many people are Republicans. I wouldn't have known. I'm glad you told me that**
>
> —Donal Trump, US President

put people in a worse financial situation than they were previously in, I am not for," he added.

Charlamagne also predicted that "traditional conservatives" are going to take back the Republican Party from Trump's MAGA base, citing controversy over the 'Epstein files'.

Trump said on Truth Social that Charlamagne was a "dope" who voted for Democratic Kamala Harris.

He called Charlamagne a "racist sleazebag" and criticised his use of God in his professional nickname. "Can anyone imagine the uproar there would be if I used that nickname?" —*PTI*

Jets scramble as Trump plays golf in Jersey

While Trump was playing golf at his Bedminster, New Jersey course on Sunday, there were at least seven violations of the temporary no-fly zone over the weekend. Fighter jets scrambled to escort a passenger away from the restricted area at around 12.00pm local, according to a statement from the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). The jets used flares to alert the pilot before escorting the aircraft out of the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) zone.

DEMOCRAT LAWMAKERS LEAVE TEXAS TO AVOID VOTING

Democratic state lawmakers left Texas to try and stop a vote on a new congressional map that would heavily favour Republicans. The proposed redistricting - unveiled by Texas's majority Republicans last week and backed by Trump - would create five new Republican-leaning seats in the US House of Representatives. Republicans currently have only a slender majority in the House. In response, Texas Governor Greg Abbott says he will begin to remove Democratic lawmakers from office if they don't return.

South Korean actor Song Young-Kyu found dead

SEOUL, 4 AUG

Veteran South Korean actor Song Young-Kyu has been found dead at the age of 55, just days after being implicated in a drunk driving scandal. His body was discovered inside a vehicle at a townhouse complex in Yongin, Gyeonggi Province, prompting an investigation by the Yongin Eastern Police Station. The cause of death remains unexplained, according to local reports.

Song gained prominence for his roles in popular K-dramas such as "Big Bet", "Hwarang", and "Hot Stove League". However, his recent arrest for drunk driving on 19 June, where he registered a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 per cent, led to significant repercussions in his career. Following the incident, the actor was removed from several projects, including ENA's "The Defects" and

Song Young-Kyu **PHOTO: X**

SBS's "The Winning Try".

A statement from the production of "The Defects" confirmed that Song's screen time would be reduced due to the controversy. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. In South Korea, celebrities face intense scrutiny, and controversies often have severe consequences for their careers. —*PTI*

STIR FOR PAY RAISE

Boeing's fighter jet builders go on strike

NEW YORK, 4 AUG

Boeing workers who build fighter jets went on strike Monday at midnight Central Daylight Time.

About 3,200 workers at Boeing facilities in St Louis; St Charles, Missouri; and Mascoutah, Illinois, voted to reject a modified four-year labour agreement with Boeing, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers union said Sunday.

"3,200 highly-skilled IAM Union members at Boeing went on strike at midnight because enough is enough," the union said on X.

The vote followed members' rejection last week of an earlier proposal from the troubled aerospace giant, which had included a 20 per cent wage increase over four years.

About 3,200 workers voted to reject a modified four-year labour agreement, for the second time in a week **PHOTO: PTI**

"IAM District 837 members build the aircraft and defense systems that keep our country safe," said Sam Cicinelli, Midwest territory general Vice President for the union, in a statement. "They deserve nothing less than a contract that keeps their families secure and recognises their unmatched expertise."

During the earlier vote, union leaders had recommended approving the offer, calling it a "landmark agreement" and saying it would improve medical, pension and overtime benefits.

The union members rejected the latest proposal after a weeklong cooling-off period.

"We're disappointed our employees rejected an offer that featured 40 per cent average wage growth and resolved their primary issue on alternative work schedules," said Dan Gillian, Boeing Air Dominance Vice President and General Manager, and senior St. Louis site executive. "We are prepared for a strike and have fully implemented our contingency plan to ensure our non-striking workforce can continue supporting our customers."

Boeing has been struggling after two of its Boeing 737 Max airplanes crashed, one in Indonesia in 2018 and the other in Ethiopia in 2019, killing 346 people. In June, one of Boeing's Dreamliner planes, operated by Air India, crashed, killing at least 260 people. —*PTI*

ISRAEL WAR IMPACT

Iran sets up new defence council

TEHRAN, 4 AUG

Following attacks in June by Israel and the United States, Iran has established a new defence council, according to reports from state media on Monday.

The decision to form the Supreme National Defence Council was made by Iran's Supreme National Security Council, the country's highest security authority. President Masoud Pezeshkian will lead the new council, which is tasked with managing defensive strategies and enhancing the capabilities of Iran's armed forces.

Army commander-in-chief Amir Hatami

Membership is expected to include the speaker of Parliament, the head of the judiciary, and commanders from military branches, alongside representatives from associated ministries.

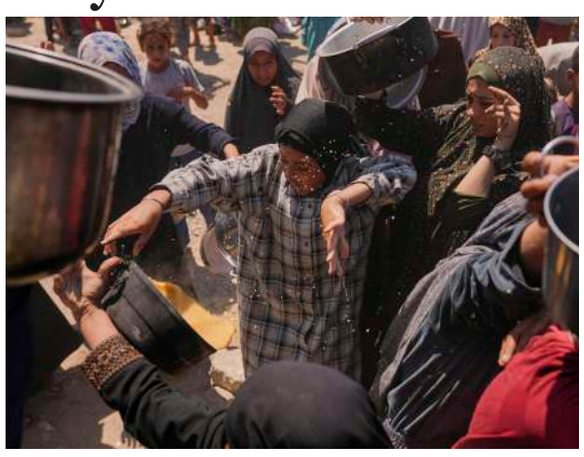
Though specific details surrounding the membership of the defence, intelligence, and foreign ministries were not disclosed, they are anticipated to be part of the council.

This move comes in the aftermath of a 12-day air campaign by Israel and the US, which resulted in nearly 1,100 fatalities, including numerous military leaders and commanders.

A ceasefire has been in effect since shortly after the airstrikes targeted key nuclear facilities in Iran.

Iran had a similar council during the conflict with Iraq in the 1980s. —*PTI*

33 aid seekers killed by Israel in Gaza



Palestinians struggle to get donated food at a community kitchen in Gaza City on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

DEIR AL-BALAH, 4 AUG

A Far-Right Israeli minister visited and prayed at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site on Sunday, triggering regional condemnation and fears that the provocative move could further escalate tensions. The visit came as hospitals in Gaza said 33 more Palestinians seeking food aid were killed by Israeli fire.

With Israel facing global criticism over famine-like conditions in the besieged strip, Itamar Ben-Gvir's visit to the hillside compound threatened to further set back efforts by international mediators to halt Israel's nearly two-year military offensive in Gaza.

The area, which Jews call the Temple Mount, is the holiest site in Judaism and was home to the ancient biblical temples. Muslims call the site the Noble Sanctuary. Today, it is home to the Al-Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam.

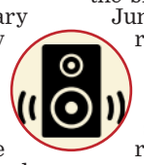
Meanwhile, around 600 retired Israeli security officials wrote to US President Donald Trump to put pressure on Israel to end the Gaza war. "It is our professional judgement that Hamas no longer poses a strategic threat to Israel," they said.

As the humanitarian crisis worsened in Gaza, Trump said he wants Israel to feed the hungry people. "We want the people fed – and we're the only country that's really doing that. We're putting up money to get the people fed... We want Israel to get them fed". —*Agencies*

SOUTH KOREA REMOVES SPEAKERS FROM NORTH KOREAN BORDER

SEOUL, 4 AUG

South Korea's military announced on Monday the removal of loudspeakers along its border with North Korea, a move aimed at de-escalating tensions. These loudspeakers had been used to broadcast anti-North Korean propaganda, but following a shift in government, the broadcasts were halted in June as a gesture towards rebuilding trust and reviving dialogue with Pyongyang.



The Defence Ministry said the loudspeaker removal was a "practical measure" to ease hostilities, adding that it would not affect military readiness. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Gold climbs by ₹400 to ₹98,020/10g

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Gold prices climbed Rs 400 to Rs 98,020 per 10g in the national capital on Monday due to fresh buying by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. On Friday, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 97,620 per 10g. In the national capital, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 300 to Rs 97,800 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. Gold had settled at Rs 97,500 per 10g in the previous market close. In addition, silver prices increased Rs 500 to Rs 1,10,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. Meanwhile, spot gold was trading flat at USD 3,363.83 per ounce in New York. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Rupee plunges by 52P, closes at 87.70 against USD

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

The rupee depreciated 52 paise to close at 87.70 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as sustained foreign fund outflows and trade tariff uncertainties dented investors' sentiment. Forex traders said US President Donald Trump's tariffs triggered fresh concerns over a much wider disruption in the global trade landscape. The domestic currency declined during the day on demand for dollars from Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). At the end of Monday's trading session, the domestic unit was at 87.70 (provisional), down by 52 paise over its previous close. *—PTI*

Tesla opens India's first EV charging hub in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

Tesla has launched its first EV charging station in India at One BKC in Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex, shortly after unveiling its Experience Centre in the city. The facility features four V4 Superchargers (DC, 250 kW, Rs 24/kWh) and four destination chargers (AC, 11 kW, Rs 14/kWh). The company plans to install three additional charging hubs by September in Lower Parel, Thane, and Navi Mumbai. Tesla officially entered the Indian market on 15 July with the launch of its Model Y, starting at Rs 59.89 lakh. The vehicle will be imported fully built from Tesla's Shanghai plant and offered in two variants: standard rear-wheel drive and long-range rear-wheel drive, priced at Rs 67.89 lakh. Deliveries are expected in Q3 and Q4. *—PTI*

India's marine fish catch dips 2% to 34.7LT in 2024

KOCHI, 4 AUG

India's marine fish catch fell slightly in 2024 to 34.7 lakh tonnes (LT), down two per cent from the previous year, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) said on Monday. Gujarat landed the most fish for the year at 754,000 tonnes, followed by Tamil Nadu with 679,000 tonnes and Kerala with 610,000 tonnes, CMFRI said in its annual estimates. Indian mackerel topped the catch list at 263,000 tonnes, followed by oil sardine at 241,000 tonnes. Across the country, landings of mackerel, ribbonfish, non-penaeid shrimps and cephalopods fell from 2023 levels. But catches of lesser sardines, penaeid shrimps, anchovies and tuna increased. While the west coast suffered a decrease in landings, the east showed an increasing trend, with exceptions in Maharashtra and AP, it said. *—PTI*

VinFast launches EV plant in TN

This is the company's third operational plant and the fifth project globally

THOOTHUKUDI, 4 AUG

Vietnamese Electric Vehicle major VinFast on Monday officially inaugurated its electric vehicle (EV) assembly plant at the SIPCOT Industrial Park in Thoothukudi.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated the plant in the presence of VinFast Asia CEO Pham Sanh Chau, with the roll out of the premium VF7 car.

It is a major step in VinFast's global expansion, reinforcing the company's long-term commitment to the world's third-largest automobile market and underscoring VinFast's confidence in India's strategic role in the future of the global EV industry, the company said.

The CM signed the first car from the factory. VinFast Tamil Nadu is the company's third operational plant and the fifth project in its global manufacturing network.

Stalin expressed happiness over the largest group in South Asia for choosing Tamil Nadu for its project. "Today the first electric vehicle manufacturing project has been started in Thoothukudi. This will improve trade and economic growth between Tamil Nadu and Vietnam," he said and added that this was an example of 'ease of doing business' in Tamil Nadu.

The project was completed within 18 months of signing of the MoU, with an initial investment of Rs 1,300 crore. This was the first electric vehicle manufacturing facility the company has started in South Asia, outside of Vietnam.

Currently, leading companies like Hyundai, Nissan, Tata Motors, BMW, BYD, Ola, Ather, TVS, Ampere have started their electric vehicle production. Many more traditional car companies were also choosing the path of electric vehicles, he said.

More than 200 diploma students from Thoothukudi district, who received special training under the government skill development programme have got employment in this company. Further, the firm will hire 80 to 90 per cent of the employees from Thoothukudi and neighbouring districts. *—PTI*

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin with VinFast Asia CEO Pham Sanh Chau during the inauguration of the EV manufacturing plant at SIPCOT Sillanatham Industrial Park, in Thoothukudi on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

TN SIGNS OVER ₹32K CR DEALS

THOOTHUKUDI, 4 AUG

Tamil Nadu government was systematically working towards attracting huge investments and generating employment in a big way so as to transform the state through economic progress, Chief Minister MK Stalin said here on Monday.

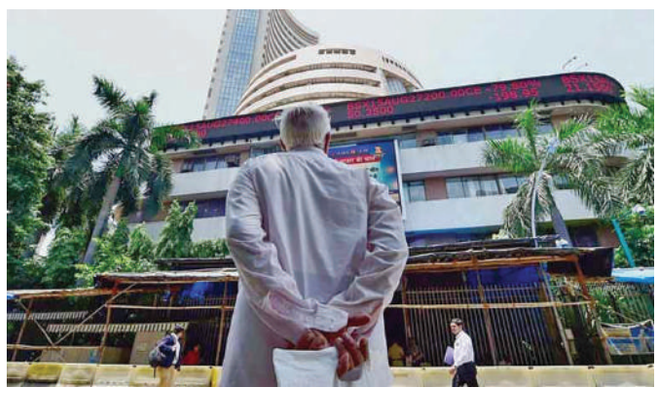
The numerous initiatives taken by the government have ensured that the industrially backward southern districts in the state become equipped and keep pace with the industrial development in other parts of the state, he claimed.

Through these sectors providing highly-paid jobs, a turnaround could be ensured in the economic growth and production environment of Tamil Nadu.

The industrialisation of the southern districts was the dream of late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi.

He made key announcements to transform Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts.

The government's great efforts in the last four years helped to attract 898 projects with an investment of Rs 10.30 lakh crore and employment potential of 32.94 lakh, he said. *—PTI*



Sensex gains 419 pts, ends above 81K level

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by nearly 419 points to close above the 81,000 level on Monday following gains in metal, commodities and auto shares amid a firm trend in global markets.

Snapping the two-day falling streak, the 30-share Sensex gained 418.81 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 81,018.72 with 26 of its constituents ending higher and four down. During the day, it climbed 493.28 points or 0.61 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,093.19.

The 50-share NSE Nifty jumped by 157.40 points or 0.64 per cent to close at 24,722.75. In the intraday session, it rose 169.3 points or 0.6 per cent to hit a high of 24,734.65

Among Sensex firms, Tata Steel was the lead gainer, humping by 4.31 per cent. BEL, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies, Trent, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement and Larsen & Toubro were the major gainers.

However, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever were among the laggards.

FMCG and Bankex were the only laggards:

Additionally the promoters' ownership in private listed companies declined to an eight-year low of 40.58 per cent as of 30 June, 2025, following a net share sale worth Rs 54,732 crore during the quarter, according to data from primeinfobase.com, an initiative of PRIME Database Group. *—PTI*

MCX shares rise over 6% in Q1

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Shares of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) rose over 6% on Monday after the company reported an 83 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 203.19 crore for the June quarter. The stock closed at Rs 8,060 on the NSE and Rs 8,058.45 on the BSE.

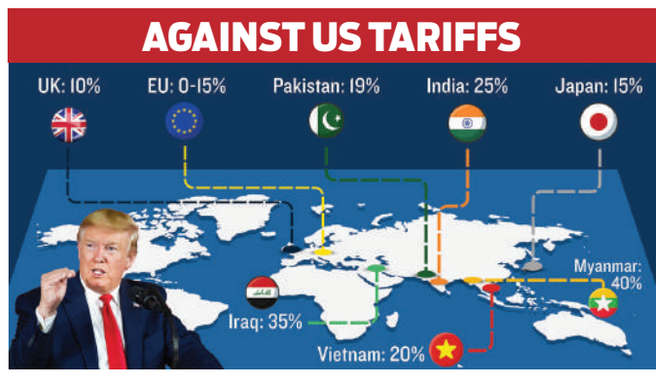
In a regulatory filing on Friday, MCX reported that its net profit rose from Rs 110.92 crore in the same quarter last year, and 50 per cent quarter-on-quarter from Rs 135.45 crore.

Revenue from operations surged 59 per cent to Rs 373.21 crore, up from Rs 234.37 crore in Q1 FY25.

Additionally, MCX's board approved a stock split in a 1:5 ratio, meaning one equity share of Rs 10 face value will be split into five shares of Rs 2 each. *—PTI*

Trade unions, ryots to stir on 13 Aug

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG



President Trump's new tariffs will be over and above the existing standard import duty in the US **PHOTO: PTI**

CTUs-SKM, the platform of 10 Central Trade Unions and Samyukt Kisan Morcha, on Monday gave a call for a nationwide protest on 13 August, against US President Donald Trump's tariff threats and India-UK CETA.

"CTUs-SKM calls upon all farmers, workers, students, and patriotic citizens to join the nationwide day of resistance on 13 August, 2025, with various mass actions like tractor and motorcycle rallies, protest demonstrations, public gatherings, and other forms of protest as decided by different platforms and partner organizations," it said in a statement.

Meanwhile, an official in the know said on Monday that the Union government is working on support measures for exporters in sectors like textiles and chemicals to insulate them from the impact of Trump's tariff move.

The official said that the commerce ministry has held meetings with several export sectors, including steel, food processing, engineering, marine, and agriculture, to understand issues they may face due to high tariffs.

Moody's Ratings on Monday said curtailed access to the US market will diminish prospects for India to develop its manufacturing sector, but the country's domestic demand will remain resilient to these external pressures.

Trump has announced a 25 per cent duty on imports from India from 7 August. These will be over and above the existing standard import duty in the US. *—PTI*

Adani Group rejects tie-up plans with China's BYD

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Adani Group on Monday said it is not exploring any tie-up with Chinese firms such as BYD for battery manufacturing and clean energy technology.

In a stock exchange filing, Adani Enterprises Ltd, the group's flagship firm, said reports of a tie-up with Chinese companies BYD and Beijing WeLion New Energy Technology are incorrect.

"The Adani Group is not exploring any form of collaboration with BYD for battery manufacturing in India," it said. "Similarly, we are not engaged in any discussions with Beijing WeLion New Energy Technology for a partnership of any kind."

Reports had suggested that group chairman Gautam Adani was "personally heading discussions" with BYD executives to manufacture batteries in India and extend its push into clean energy.

The group has a huge clean energy portfolio – from solar module manufacturing to wind energy equipment and green hydrogen.

The Adani Group is expanding its solar module manufacturing to 10 gigawatt (GW) per annum and nearly double its wind turbine manufacturing capacity to 5 GW per annum. It is also looking to set up a facility to manufacture electrolysers that are used to make green hydrogen. *—PTI*

Tata Investment Corp net profit up by 11.6% amid stock-split

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Tata Investment Corporation Ltd (TICL) announced on Monday that announced its board's approval of a stock split in the ratio of 1:10.

The Tata Firm's board of directors also approved the financial results for the first quarter of the ongoing fiscal year and the sub-division of shares, according to reports.

In this backdrop, TICL reported an 11.6 per cent increase in consolidated profit after tax at Rs 146.3 crore in the first quarter that ended 30 June, 2025 on higher dividend income. The company had posted a consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs 131.07 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, TICL said in a regulatory filing.

Consolidated total revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at Rs 145.46 crore, as against Rs 142.46 crore in the year-ago period, it added. *—Agencies*

India's tea production falls 9% in June

KOLKATA, 4 AUG

India's tea production declined by 9 per cent in June 2025, reaching 133.5 million kg, compared to 146.72M kg in the same month last year, according to figures released by the Tea Board. The Indian Tea Association attributed the fall to unfavourable weather and pest infestations.

In North India, including Assam and West Bengal, output fell to 112.51M kg from 121.52M kg in June 2024. South India also saw a decline, with production dropping to 20.99M kg from 25.20M kg. Large, organised estates produced 55.21M kg, down from 68.38M kg a year earlier. *—PTI*

V-Guard launches AirWiz series: Stylish, smart & energy-efficient BLDC fans

V-Guard Industries Ltd, India's leading consumer electronics brand based in Kochi, has unveiled the AirWiz Series—a range of advanced BLDC ceiling fans engineered for performance, style, and energy efficiency.

The lineup features four models: AirWiz Light, AirWiz Prime, AirWiz Plus, and AirWiz N, each designed to meet diverse home needs with powerful 370 RPM motors consuming just 35W.

Crafted at V-Guard's Roorkee facility, these fans offer elegant matte-glossy finishes and wide aluminium blades for high-speed air delivery. Key features include reverse mode for winter use, dust-repellent coating, remote control, 4 or 8-hour timers, four wind modes, and operation in voltage ranges of 90V–300V.

The flagship AirWiz Light comes with an integrated under-light, combining illumination with air comfort to transform living spaces. While AirWiz Prime features a stylish UI LED indicator. Both are available in 19 vi-brant shades, including wood finishes. AirWiz Plus offers premium features at an affordable price and is available in 9 powder-coated colours.

Speaking on the launch, Managing Director Mithun Chittilappilly emphasized V-Guard's commitment to en-ergy-efficient homes.

Director and COO Ramachandran V also highlighted the series' blend of style and performance.

Backed by a 3-year warranty, the AirWiz range is available at authorized V-Guard dealers across India.

The Kochi-based company recorded revenues of Rs 5577.82 crores in FY 2025 and is present across the country with 35 branches and over 1,00,000 channel partners.

AUTOMATED & CONTACTLESS

₹7.08L cr GST evasion detected in five years

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Central GST field officers have detected tax evasion of about Rs 7.08 lakh crore in the last five years till 2024-25 fiscal, including input tax credit (ITC) fraud of about Rs 1.79 lakh crore, Parliament was informed on Monday.

In 2024-25 fiscal alone, over Rs 2.23 lakh crore of Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion were detected by CGST field officers, according to the data shared by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha.

Of the 30,056 cases of GST evasion detected in FY'25, more than half or 15,283 cases pertained to ITC fraud, where the evasion was to the tune of Rs 58,772 crore.

In the 2023-24 fiscal, Rs 2.30 lakh crore worth GST evasion was detected by CGST field officers, involving ITC fraud of Rs 36,374 crore.

In FY'23, about Rs 1.32 lakh crore GST evasion was detected, including Rs 24,140 crore of fake ITC claims.

In FY'22 and FY'21, GST evasion stood at Rs 73,238 crore and Rs 49,384 crore respectively. This included ITC fraud of Rs 28,022 crore and Rs 31,233 crore respectively.

In the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25), total GST evasion detected by CGST field officers stood at about Rs 7.08 lakh crore in 91,370 cases. Taxes recovered during the period by way of voluntary deposit stood at over Rs 1.29 lakh crore.

The evasion data includes ITC fraud of about Rs 1.79 lakh crore in 44,938 cases between FY'21 to FY'25.

Actual collection stood at over Rs 10.26 lakh crore in FY'25, as against RE of nearly Rs 10.62 lakh crore. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

In 2024-25 fiscal alone, over Rs 2.23 lakh crore of GST evasion were detected by CGST field officers, said the data shared by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha

AAI announces first edition of Archery League

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Archery Association of India (AAI) on Monday announced the first-of-its-kind Archery League, which will see men and women recurve and compound archers from across the world competing in a franchise-styled tournament. The inaugural edition of the league is expected to take place over 11 days in October this year at the Yamuna Sports Complex in Delhi. The event has received encouragement from World Archery, World Archery Asia, and the Sports Ministry. The organisers claimed the league aims to strengthen the overall archery ecosystem across India and the world. The event will feature foreign archers from among the world's top 10, along with top Indian players who will all be representing six franchise teams. Archery Association of India president Arjun Munda said, "We are confident that with the help of the Archery League, we will be able to fulfil these dreams and provide more opportunities.—*PTI*

Messi-led Argentina football team drops Kerala trip

KOCHI, 4 AUG

Argentina's national football team, led by legendary player Lionel Messi, will not visit Kerala, State Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman said on Monday. The Minister had earlier insisted that the Messi-led Argentina side would visit the State as announced by the Kerala government, and that the sponsor had already paid the match fee for the event. He told reporters on Monday that the foreign team informed them that they were facing difficulties in visiting the State in October this year, but the sponsor responded that "we are interested only in a visit in October." Minister had earlier said the team was more likely to come in October or November this year. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@PGA

Cameron Young wins first PGA Tour title

DUBAI, 4 AUG

Cameron Young finally got his first PGA Tour victory on Sunday after seven runner-up finishes, and he made it look easy. He had five straight birdies early to build a nine-shot lead and coasted home to a 2-under 68 to win the Wyndham Championship by six shots. He became the 1,000th player to win a recognised PGA Tour event, dating back to Willie Park in the 1860 British Open. It must have felt like it took Young 165 years to win as many chances as he has had since his rookie season in 2022.—*PTI*

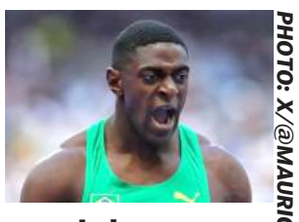


PHOTO: X/@MAURICIO

Luiz surpasses Neeraj with a throw of 91 metres

SYDNEY, 4 AUG

Brazilian javelin thrower Luiz Mauricio da Silva surpassed Neeraj Chopra to achieve the second-best mark of the year, with an attempt of 91m at the 2025 Brazilian Athletics Trophy in São Paulo on Sunday. Luiz turned heads with his first throw itself his personal best of 90.68 mm surpassing his previous record of 86.62m and then improved on it to win the title. The throw was head and shoulders above his competitors, with the second-placed Pedro Henrique Nunes throwing 10 metres short. "I still don't know how to describe what that event was like. I always aimed to reach 90 meters, because you always see throwers throwing far, but few go above that mark.—*PTI*

'Young' India's fightback at The Oval signals new era under Shubman Gill

Series drew a fair result after going toe-to-toe for 25 days, says England captain Stokes

LONDON, 4 AUG

India captain Shubman Gill said levelling the Test series 2-2 against England "means so much" after a dramatic six-run victory in the final Test at The Oval. The thrilling conclusion capped off a hard-fought series where both teams exchanged blows across five Tests.

"This was a very hard-fought series," Gill told the BBC. "You could never really predict after day four who was going to win. We may be a young team, but we never wanted to be seen as one — and we showed that today."

Gill praised pacer Mohammed Siraj, calling him "every captain's dream" and said the 2-2 scoreline fairly reflected the quality of cricket played throughout the series.

Day five began under sunny skies but quickly turned overcast — ideal conditions for the Indian seamers. Despite initial hopes for England, India's bowlers and fans packed into the 27,500-capacity ground brought energy and belief.

KL Rahul, who scored two centuries in the series, called the result a defining moment for Indian Test cricket: "This will rank right at the top. For a team that wasn't given a

chance to come back and draw the series, this is where the change begins."

Siraj delivered a sensational spell, removing the dangerous Jamie Smith with a delivery that took the edge and carried to the keeper. He nearly had Gus Atkinson next ball, but the chance wasn't held at slip. In his next over, he trapped Jamie Overton with a delivery that clipped the leg stump on review, reducing England's hopes further.

Prasidh Krishna complemented Siraj by trapping Josh Tongue LBW, leaving England at 350 for nine.

In a moment of immense bravery, Chris Woakes walked in with a broken arm—echoing Colin Cowdrey's famous act in 1963. But Atkinson had to take charge. He cleared the boundary once, bringing the target to single digits.

With everything on the line, Siraj bowled a searing yorker that shattered Atkinson's off-stump, sealing an unforgettable win for India.

The Oval crowd erupted, and with it, a new chapter for Indian Test cricket may have just begun.

England captain **Ben Stokes**, who missed The Oval Test, lauded India's efforts in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy and admitted that 2-2 is probably a fair outcome of such a compelling five-match series. "The series as a whole was just all games going to five days. It's been toe-to-toe for 25 days and two very good teams who have thrown everything at each other and leaving nothing out there. I guess from a cricket fan's point of view, 2-2 is probably fair," Stokes said on Monday. —*PTI*

Indian team members during the felicitation ceremony after their victory in the fifth Test match against England
PHOTO: PTI

REWRITING HISTORY BOOKS WITH A FLURRY OF RECORDS

A staggering ■7,000+ runs were scored, making it only the second series ever to cross that mark. ■Nine batters crossed 400 runs, an all-time high. ■India's Shubman Gill broke Graham Gooch's record with 754 runs, the most in any India-England series. ■The series also featured 18th-century partnerships, the most in a Test series this century, and India's narrowest win by just six runs.

PAKISTAN VS WEST INDIES

Pakistan players pose with the trophy after their team won the third Twenty20 international
PHOTO: PTI

Pakistan wins 3rd T20 by 13 runs to clinch 2-1 series win

LAUDERHILL, 4 AUG

Saim Ayub posted a half-century in a 138-run opening stand with Sahibzada Farhan and then took a key wicket as Pakistan beat West Indies by 13 runs to clinch the Twenty20 cricket series 2-1.

Pakistan posted 189-4 and then bowled tightly enough to restrict West Indies to 176-6.

Pakistan's opening partnership ended when Farhan was out for 74 runs in the 17th over, his 53-ball innings finishing when he hit a low full-toss from Shamar Joseph (1-57) directly to Shai Hope at long-off.

West Indies raced to 33-0 after two overs in reply, taking 16 off the first over from Hasan Ali and 17 in the second from Mohammad Nawaz.

Haris Rauf slowed the run-rate in the third over, which only went for five runs, and then snared the first West Indies wicket when he had Jewel Andrew (24 from 15 deliveries) caught by Hasan Ali in the fifth over with the total at 44.

Alick Athanaze scored 60 from 40 deliveries, sharing further partnerships of 30 with Hope (7) and 36 with Rutherford until he mis-timed a fuller, faster delivery from Ayub and was caught at short thirdman. At that point, West Indies slipped to 110-3 in the 13th over. Pakistan 189 for 4 (Farhan 74, Ayub 66, Chase 1-31) beat West Indies 176 for 6 (Athanaze 60, Rutherford 51, Muqeem 1-20) by 13 runs—*PTI*

Fritz joins elite club after reaching Nat'l Bank Open QF

TORONTO, 4 AUG

The world No. 4, Taylor Fritz, made it into the quarterfinals of the 2025 National Bank Open after securing a 7-6(4), 6-7(2), 7-6(5) victory over Jiri Lehecka on Monday. It was one of the most thrilling ATP clashes of the season as all three sets went into a tie-break, and this thrilling encounter lasted around three hours.

It was a tennis masterclass from Fritz and Lehecka as the match lasted 39 games without a break of serve. The American ace delivered two aces in the final tiebreaker of the match and wrapped up the game. Taylor Fritz made it to his 14th career Masters 1000 quarterfinals and second of the season. He has now reached the last-8 of the all Masters tournament and joined the elite club of current players.

CURRENT PLAYERS WHO REACHED QFS OF ALL ATP MASTERS 1000 EVENTS

- Novak Djokovich
- Carlos Alcaraz
- Alexander Zverev
- Daniel Medvedev
- Marin Cilic
- Grigor Dimitrov
- Gael Monfils
- Hubert Hurkacz
- Andrey Rublev

Swiatek crashes out, Osaka races into quarter-finals

Wimbledon champion Iga Swiatek became the latest seed to fall at the WTA Canadian Open on Monday, stunned 7-6 (7/1), 6-3 by 19th-ranked Dane Clara Tauson in the fourth round.

Taylor Fritz

Iga Swiatek

Swiatek, ranked third in the world and seeded second in Montreal, followed top-seeded Coco Gauff, third-seeded two-time defending champion Jessica Pegula, and fourth-seeded Mirra Andreeva out the door. Meanwhile, it was clear sailing for former world number one Naomi Osaka, who needed just 49 minutes to blast past Anastasija Sevastova 6-1, 6-0.

Fifth-seeded American Amanada Anisimova followed later with a straight-sets loss to Elina Svitolina.

Shelton and Cobolli's blow-up is just what tennis needs

The match was intense, and maybe that is what led to the ending. In three tight sets, Ben Shelton defeated Flavio Cobolli in the fourth round of the Canadian Open 6-4 4-6 7-6(1). It was a moment during the tie-break that caused things to ratchet up, though. Cobolli made a motion with his arm near his head that Shelton took as some kind of personal attack. Whether it was or not is immaterial. In the heat of a tennis match, anything can add drama and intensity. Shelton certainly felt that way. —*PTI*

Diksha finishes 46th as Yamashita wins AIG Women's Open

PORTHCAWL, 4 AUG

India's Diksha Dagar endured a rough outing, carding a five-over 77 in the weather-hit final round to finish tied 46th at the AIG Women's Open here.

Japan's Miyu Yamashita captured her first major title in commanding fashion at Royal Porthcawl, earning a winner's check of USD 1,462,500.

She had eight bogeys against three birdies as she finished the week at six-over with rounds of 71-73-73-77. Diksha, the only Indian to make the AIG Women's Open this year, was making her second cut at the Major, which is the last one of the five for women each season. Diksha bogeyed the first and had four more in the first seven holes, and had only one birdie. She later had three bogeys and two birdies for a total of eight bogeys and three birdies. In the LET Order of Merit, England's Mimi Rhodes remains top of the leaderboard on 1,708.88 points, followed by Czechia's Sara. —*PTI*

Hockey India names 24-member men's hockey team for tour of Australia

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

India, on Monday, included young defender Poovanna CB in the 24-member men's hockey team to be led by ace drag flicker Harmanpreet Singh for the four-match Tour of Australia, starting August 15 in Perth.The assignment will serve as an exposure tour for the team ahead of the all-important Asia Cup at home in Rajgir from August 29, which is also a World Cup Qualifier."We are heading to Perth, Australia, to sharpen up ahead of the Asia Cup in Bihar. The focus will be on improving our physical conditioning and technical execution through quality training and warm-up matches, chief coach Craig Fulton said.Fulton also spoke about testing youngsters in the squad and giving them the exposure ahead of important outings. —*PTI*

Poovanna

U22 ABC: SIX BOXERS ASSURE INDIA OF SIX MORE MEDALS

BANGKOK, 4 AUG

Two women boxers and four male pugilists progressed to the semifinals to assure India of six more medals at the U22 Asian Boxing Championships here on Monday. Priya (women's 60kg), Paranjal Yadav (women's 70kg), Harsh (men's 60kg), Neeraj (men's 75kg), Rockey Chaudhary (men's 85kg) and Ishan Kataria (men's 90+kg) are the six boxers who sealed their semifinals berth with comfortable victories in their respective bouts. Priya started India's march with a unanimous 5:0 verdict against Sarii Kokufu of Japan, and Harsha also dominated Mongolia's Munkh-Erdene Erdenebold to win by an identical score line. Paranjal became the third boxer to assure India a medal in the morning session after a tough battle against Mengge Zhang of China. —*PTI*

Chelsea confirms arrival of Jorrel from Ajax

LONDON, 4 AUG

The young Dutch defender joins the club after coming through the academy at Ajax before going on to play 110 games for the club's first team.

The transfer was made for a fee of a reported ₹43 million (approx £37.25m), with the player signing until 2032.

"I'm very excited, I'm so happy to be here," the 19-year-old said to the club's media on his arrival at Stamford Bridge.

"I thought a lot about my future and wanted to take the next step in my career. Chelsea is the best place for me to do that, so I'm very happy."

Chelsea have been busy as usual in the transfer window this summer, with Hato becoming the club's ninth

arrival of the window.

Though just 19, Hato already has quite a bit of senior professional experience, including four senior caps for the Netherlands. He had been ever-present for Ajax the last two seasons, with 96 appearances for the club across all competitions in that time. —*PTI*

FORMULA 1

F1's 'silly season' puts Red Bull, Merc on the spot

LONDON, 4 AUG

It's time for Formula 1's risk-taking drivers, overworked engineers, and harried team principals to relax. At least in theory.

With four weeks until the next race, including a mandatory 14-day shutdown of all racing operations from next week, the F1 season is on hold.

It's what F1 calls "silly season," the time when contract talks and rumors fill the vacuum. It often seemed like the ill season started early amid feverish speculation about a move from Red Bull to Mercedes for four-time champion Max Verstappen. Now that Verstappen has confirmed he's staying with Red Bull, other decisions, such as contract renewals at Mercedes, could speed up. Most F1 teams saw the sweeping rule changes coming for 2026 and tied down key drivers to long contract extensions last year, or even the year before.

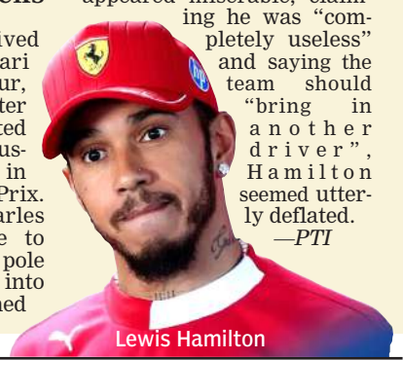
As well as checking out a potential Verstappen move, Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff has waited on contract extensions for George Russell and Kimi Antonelli, who aren't confirmed beyond 2025.

George Russell

FERRARI BOSS BACKS LEWIS HAMILTON

Lewis Hamilton received support from his Ferrari team boss, Fred Vasseur, on Sunday, just hours after the Briton cut a dejected figure following a lacklustre drive to 12th place in the Hungarian Grand Prix. While team-mate Charles Leclerc proved unable to convert Ferrari's first pole position of the season into victory due to unexplained mechanical problems during the race, seven-time champion Hamilton was battling to escape the midfield and finished where he started.

As on Saturday, when he was dumped out of Q2 and appeared miserable, claiming he was "completely useless" and saying the team should "bring in another driver", Hamilton seemed utterly deflated. —*PTI*



Lewis Hamilton